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## Bolton willing to testify in impeachment trial if subpoenaed

By ZEKE MILLER, MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former White House national security adviser John Bolton said he is "prepared to testify" if he is subpoenaed by the Senate in its impeachment trial of President Donald Trump, a surprise statement that bolstered Democrats in their push for new witnesses. Bolton, who left the White House in September, said Monday that he has weighed the issues of executive privilege and after "careful consideration and study" decided that he would comply with any Senate subpoena. "If the Senate issues a subpoena for my testimony, I am prepared to testify," he said.



In this July 31, 2019 file photo, then National security adviser John Bolton speaks to media at the White House in Washington. Associated Press

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**Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is surrounded by reporters after remarks on the floor about the looming impeachment trial of President Donald Trump and Trump's order to kill an Iranian general, at the Capitol in Washington, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020.**

Associated Press

**Continued from Front**

If Bolton were to appear, he could provide a first-hand account of events central to the impeachment case against the president. As a senior adviser, he was present for key moments that were investigated in

the House's impeachment inquiry, including meetings with Ukrainian officials. His willingness to comply with a subpoena could complicate the strategy of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has expressed resistance

to calling new witnesses. Bolton left a message for McConnell before he issued his statement on Monday morning, a person familiar with the matter confirmed to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because he or she wasn't authorized to speak publicly.

McConnell has called for a swift impeachment trial, with a possible final vote after opening arguments. He has repeatedly referred to President Bill Clinton's impeachment, when leaders decided how to proceed after the trial had started. In that case, witnesses gave closed-door depositions and some excerpts of those interviews were played on the Senate floor. "The Senate has a unanimous bipartisan precedent for when to handle mid-trial questions such as witnesses — in the middle of the trial," McConnell said as he opened the Senate on Monday.

First, though, the Senate must receive the articles of impeachment. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has stalled the transmission of House-passed articles against Trump in a bid for the witness testimony that Democrats are seeking. Pelosi did not provide any clues about her next steps Monday. But in a tweet she said Trump and McConnell have "run out of excuses" for not calling witnesses or producing documents that Trump has blocked.

Trump told Rush Limbaugh on his radio show that the whole process is "sad for our country" and suggested that Pelosi doesn't want a trial.

"She doesn't want to get a vote because how could anybody possibly — it's totally partisan," Trump said. Bolton's testimony would inject an element of unpredictability to an impeachment trial that is widely ex-

pected to end with Trump's acquittal. He clashed with Trump while working at the White House, and the two men offered differing versions of whether he resigned or was fired when he left office.

Should he testify, Bolton would almost certainly be asked about a comment he is said to have made that he did not want to be "part of whatever drug deal" European Union Ambassador Gordon Sondland and White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney were "cooking up" as Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate Democrats.

That pressure, as Trump was withholding security aid to Ukraine, was at the heart of the inquiry in the House, which voted to impeach Trump on Dec. 18.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said in a statement after Bolton's announcement that "momentum for uncovering the truth in a Senate trial continues."

Schumer said that it is "now up to four Senate Republicans to support bringing in Mr. Bolton" and the other witnesses he has proposed, including Mulvaney. Republicans hold the Senate with a 53-seat majority, and Democrats would have to find four Republicans to vote with them to issue a subpoena.

If Republicans oppose the subpoenas Democrats have proposed, Schumer said, "they would make absolutely clear they are participating in a cover up."

At least one Senate Republican was ready to hear from Bolton. "He has first-hand information," Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah., told reporters. "Assuming that the articles of impeachment reach the Senate, I'd like to hear what he has to say." Other Republicans downplayed the possibility of calling Bolton at the trial.

"Call me a skeptic that there's anything he would add," said Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, a member of Republican leadership.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio tweeted that the Senate should not move beyond the evidence collected in the House inquiry — a process that McConnell has called the "least thorough" in history.

"Our job is to vote on what the House passed, not to conduct an open ended inquiry," Rubio tweeted.

And another Republican, Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley, introduced legislation Monday to change Senate rules to allow the dismissal of articles of impeachment if they aren't transmitted to the Senate.

"I don't know why we would" hear from Bolton, Hawley said, "but let's start the trial."

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., signaled in a tweet that he will not call Bolton again in the House, writing that "the Senate must allow testimony from him, Mulvaney and others." Schiff had invited Bolton to testify in the inquiry but did not subpoena him, saying he didn't want the impeachment case to languish in the courts. Instead, the House voted to impeach Trump for obstruction of Congress.

Bolton late last year teased that he would have more to say about Ukraine, tweeting that people should "stay tuned." The Associated Press reported in November that Bolton is writing a book and has a deal with the publisher Simon & Schuster, according to three publishing officials with knowledge of the situation. Two said the deal was worth \$2 million. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly. □

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# Homeland Security will share citizenship data with Census

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — The Department of Homeland Security is agreeing to share citizenship information with the U.S. Census Bureau as part of President Donald Trump's order to collect data on who is a citizen following the Supreme Court's rejection of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census form.

Trump's order is being challenged in federal court, but meanwhile the Department of Homeland Security two weeks ago announced the agreement in a report. It said the agency would share administrative records to help the Census Bureau determine the number of citizens and non-citizens in the U.S., as well as the number of immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally. Information to be shared includes personally-identifiable data, the Homeland Security documents says. Federal law prohibits the Census Bureau from releasing personally identifiable data, and the bureau says in its fact-sheet on privacy, "Your answers can only be used to produce statistics — they cannot be used against you in any way."

The Census Bureau has promised the data will be kept for no more than two years, and will then be destroyed, according to the agreement. The data will be used to help the Census Bureau create a model estimating the likelihood that each person in the U.S. is a citizen, non-citizen or an immigrant in the country without legal permission. Among the information Homeland Security will provide is a person's alien identification number, country of birth and date of naturalization or naturalization application. The department is awaiting word on

whether it will be allowed to release information on asylum and refugee applicants, which typically is prohibited from being disclosed.

The Homeland Security document acknowledges risks that the Census Bureau will assign an inaccurate immigration status to someone, that people won't be able to correct mistakes about themselves and that Homeland Security information will be linked inaccurately to data from other sources used by the Census Bureau.

"Linking records between datasets is not likely to be 100% accurate," the Homeland Security document notes.

Trump ordered the Census Bureau to collect citizenship information through administrative records from federal agencies and the 50 states after the Supreme Court ruled against his administration last summer by deciding that a citizenship question wouldn't be allowed on this spring's 2020 Census questionnaire.

The administration had said the question was being added to aid in enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, which protects minority voters' access to the ballot box. But Chief Justice John Roberts joined the court's four more liberal members in saying the administration's current justification for the question "seems to have been contrived."

Opponents of the citizenship question had argued it would scare off immigrants, Hispanics and others from participating in the once-a-decade head count. The 2020 Census will help determine how many congressional seats each state gets as well as the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in federal funds.

The order to collect citizenship data through federal and state administrative records currently is being challenged by civil rights groups in federal court in Maryland. Their lawsuit claims that the citizenship-data gathering is motivated by "a racially discriminatory scheme" to reduce the political power of Latinos and increase the representation of non-Latino whites. As part of the order, the U.S. Census Bureau has asked state drivers' license bureaus for records, but so far only Nebraska has agreed to cooperate.

Gathering the citizenship data would give the states the option to design state and legislative districts using voter-age citizen numbers instead of the total



In this April 23, 2019 file photo, immigration activists rally outside the Supreme Court as the justices hear arguments over the Trump administration's plan to ask about citizenship on the 2020 census, in Washington.

Associated Press

population, Trump said in the order. Opponents fear that would make legislative districts more Republican-leaning and less diverse. "Whether that approach is

permissible will be resolved when a state actually proposes a districting plan based on the voter-eligible population," Trump's order said. □

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## U.S. braces for Iranian response: a 'tit for tat' assault?

By **LOLITA BALDOR, ROBERT BURNS and ZEKE MILLER**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S.

officials on Monday braced for Iran to respond to the killing of its most powerful general, noting heightened military readiness in the country and preparing for a possible "tit-for-tat" attempt on the life of an American military commander.

President Donald Trump ordered the Jan. 2 strike against Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds Force, after the death of an American contractor in Iraq. Now, as the massive demonstrations of Iran's public mourning period for Soleimani come to a close, officials believe the next steps by America's longtime foe will determine the ultimate course of the latest crisis.

While officials say American intelligence isn't clear on whether Iran's latest military moves are designed to bolster Tehran's defenses or prepare for an offensive strike, the U.S. is continuing to reinforce its own positions in the region, including repositioning some forces. One official said the U.S. anticipated a "major" attack of some type within the next day or two.

On Monday, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said no decision had been made about withdrawing troops from Iraq. Pro-Iranian factions in the Iraqi Parliament have pushed to oust American troops following Soleimani's killing on Iraqi soil. Esper spoke to reporters after a letter from a U.S. Marine general circulated that seemed to suggest a withdrawal had been ordered in response to a vote by the Iraqi Parliament over the weekend. "There's been no decision whatsoever to leave Iraq," Esper said.



**Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, left, hands off the microphone to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper to deliver a statement on Iraq and Syria, at President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago property, Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019, in Palm Beach, Fla.**

**Associated Press**

Soleimani's death, which has sparked major protests, further nuclear development and new threats of violence, has raised the prospect of a wide and unpredictable conflict in the Middle East and escalated tensions between Iran and the U.S.

The two nations have caressed from one flare-up to another since Trump began his "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran shortly after taking office. He abrogated the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed crushing economic sanctions, both steps aimed at preventing Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and deterring the sort of regional aggression spearheaded by Soleimani.

Two U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal discussions, said targeting Soleimani was not representative of a wholesale shift in American policy toward Iran, despite Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's com-

ments on Sunday that the U.S. was targeting Iran's "actual decision-makers" rather than its network of proxy allies. Trump has repeatedly contended that he is not seeking "regime change" in Iran, as has been pushed by some of his more hawkish advisers. Still, Trump's strike against Soleimani, a revered figure in Iran whose death sparked large displays of anger and grief, was a risky decision his Republican and Democratic predecessors opted not to take out of concern it would draw the U.S. and Iran closer to conflict.

U.S. officials are also aware that Iran could try to strike a high-level American leader in a "tit-for-tat" move, potentially a military commander.

One official said some Iranian ships have spread out, and while the intent isn't immediately clear, they could move rapidly to attack.

The U.S. military has increased protection of its

forces, particularly in Iraq. Officials said a number of the recently deployed soldiers from the 1st Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division had moved into Iraq from Kuwait in order to increase security for Americans there. The U.S. military has stopped all training of Iraqi forces to focus on force protection, officials said. As of Monday, officials said, there had not been a broadly distributed order or recommendation to increase security at military installations worldwide. Instead, decisions were being left up to the commanders.

The U.S. military's concern about its vulnerability to Iranian attack in the Persian Gulf region has been at a heightened state since about May, when the administration reported it was getting intelligence indications that Iran was planning attacks on U.S. interests in Iraq and elsewhere in the region. The Pentagon sent additional forces to the

Gulf at that point, and in July it worked out an arrangement with the government of Saudi Arabia to send U.S. forces to a large base deep in the Saudi desert, in less obvious range of Iranian missiles.

The main hub for American military air operations throughout the Middle East is located at al-Udeid air base in Qatar — within easy range of Iranian missiles. American forces also are stationed in the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. The Navy's 5th Fleet, which operates throughout the region, is based at Bahrain. Meanwhile on Capitol Hill in the U.S., Democrats prepared largely symbolic resolutions under the War Powers Act to limit the president's military actions regarding Iran. In a letter to House Democrats, Speaker Nancy Pelosi called the airstrike on Soleimani "provocative and disproportionate" and said it had "endangered our servicemembers, diplomats and others by risking a serious escalation of tensions with Iran."

Congress, which has the sole power to declare war, has complained that Trump did not provide advance notice of his airstrike in Baghdad. Trump did meet the 48-hour deadline required by the War Powers Act to notify Congress after the deadly drone strike. The document was classified, and no public version was released.

Senators will receive a briefing Wednesday on the situation, according to a person familiar with the meeting. Pompeo, Esper, CIA Director Gina Haspel and Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are expected to speak. The House is also expected to be briefed this week. □

# Foretold "uprising" hits cash-starved Mississippi prisons

By **JEFF AMY and EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS**  
Associated Press

**JACKSON, Miss. (AP)** —

The leader of Mississippi's underfunded prison system was pleading with lawmakers for money to hire more guards and pay them better in 2012 when he warned, "I see trouble down the road."

Christopher Epps, a long-time Mississippi Department of Corrections employee, would later go to prison himself for collecting \$1.4 million in bribes. But during budget hearings in October 2012, he said keeping salaries for guards the lowest in the nation would only work "as long as we don't have an uprising."

The uprising arrived last week when five inmates died at the hands of fellow prisoners and two of the state's largest prisons were rocked by what corrections officials called "major disturbances" between gangs. Some observers called them riots.

Now, with a new governor's inauguration looming and a new prison chief to be selected, Mississippi leaders face choices. They could pump tens of millions more dollars into a prison budget that already strains finances in the nation's poorest state. They could try to resume stalled progress toward letting people out of prison in a state with one of the highest incarceration rates in the world. Or they could try to put a Band-Aid on the current crisis and keep locking people up without spending more money.

Phil Bryant, Mississippi's outgoing governor, on Monday blamed gangs operating inside the prison system, saying prisons are difficult to manage "under the best of circumstances." Bryant spoke specifically about the infamous Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman.

"Someone asked earlier, who's responsible for what's happening at Parchman? The inmates," Bryant told reporters. "The inmates are the ones that take each other's lives. The inmates

are the ones that fashion weapons out of metal ... So, I would say look to the inmates."

But others say it's the state's responsibility to keep prisoners safe.

"The Mississippi Department of Corrections needs to be responsible for this massacre," said Malaika Canada, a prisoner advocate whose son is incarcerated at East Mississippi Correctional Facility near Meridian.

After violence Thursday, guards and state troopers marched some prisoners at Parchman into Unit 32, a cell block closed in 2011 as part of a lawsuit settlement. In July 2007, the American Civil Liberties Union told a federal judge that Unit 32's living conditions were "as bad as anywhere in the country."

Bryant said Monday that "inmates' needs are being met."

"Bottled water was brought in this morning," the Republican said. "Food service has intensified to make sure that we could get the necessary food to them. We talked earlier today about any prescription medication that the inmates may need."

Two prisoners escaped from Parchman during the uproar. Both have been recaptured.

Dillion Williams was caught Monday in a wooded area near Rossville, Tennessee, by officers from multiple agencies.

Statistics reveal stress at the three prisons directly run by the state. At Parchman, Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl and South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville, only about half of security posts were filled in the budget year ending June 30, 2019, according to documents the Corrections Department submitted last summer to budget writers. More than 1,000 times, prison employees had to work a double shift because there was no one to take their place.

While Mississippi provides plenty of inmate alcohol and drug rehabilitation opportunities, prisons



Gov. Phil Bryant discusses with reporters, his concerns about the recent violence at the state penitentiary in Parchman, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, in Jackson, Miss.

Associated Press

remain rife with drugs. At Central Mississippi, which in part takes in prisoners just sentenced, 72% of tests showed drugs. At South Mississippi, 30% of drug tests came back positive. Drugs and violence at prisons that were supposed to be locked down raise questions about whether

guards are involved. Some low-paid guards have been indicted for smuggling illegal drugs and cell-phones to prisoners. Bribes to guards may come from money extorted from prisoners' families. Past reports have shown relatives sending cash cards after imprisoned kin were threatened

with harm. "When they're on lockdown, if they can't keep people safe, we've got some administrative issues," said Scott Colom, a district attorney in northeast Mississippi. "They're on lockdown," said Canada. "You can't get out of lockdown without keys." □

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# Sweeping changes expected as Virginia Democrats take control

By **ALAN SUDERMAN**

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)** — Democrats in Virginia are looking to advance a history-making agenda when the General Assembly convenes Wednesday that could change how Virginians vote, the type of guns they can buy and the crimes for which they can be jailed.

Quick action is expected on a number of high-profile issues that Republicans have thwarted for years in what could be the one of the most sweeping legislative sessions in decades.

"This is a new year in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and a lot of these things that we've been talking about for years are now going to become a reality," Gov. Ralph Northam said Friday in announcing plans for a major overhaul of the state's criminal justice system that includes decriminalizing marijuana.

On Monday, Northam announced his backing of legislation to allow no-excuse absentee voting and to make Election Day a state holiday. As part of the plan the state would scrap Lee Jackson Day, a day honoring Confederate generals.

Other Democrat-sponsored initiatives involve prohibiting discrimination against members of the LGBTQ community and



**Gov. Ralph Northam speaks to members of the media after a press conference at the State Capitol Monday, Jan. 6, 2020 where he previewed his voting legislative proposals, including removing Lee-Jackson Day as a state holiday and replacing it with election day.**

**Associated Press**

making Virginia the next state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The amendment, submitted to the states in the early 1970s, would ban any discrimination based on sex. Virginia could be the crucial 38th state to ratify it, though legal challenges are almost certain to follow.

Voter antipathy toward President Donald Trump, particularly in suburban areas, has helped dramatically reshape the General Assembly since the president took office. Democrats won control of both chambers of the legislature last year, and now, along

with Northam, have an opportunity to pass priorities in a number of areas that Republicans have blocked for years.

"The length of the list of things for which people are expecting action is longer than I ever remember it being," said Democratic Del. Ken Plum, who was first elected in the late 1970s. "On the one hand it can be overwhelming, on the other hand it can be exciting. ... It's going to be a big one."

Republican Del. Todd Gilbert, who is set to be the next House minority leader, said Democrats should be

cautious about claiming a broad mandate. He noted that House Republicans enjoyed a supermajority when President Barack Obama was in office and just a few thousand votes spread across a handful of districts made the difference in partisan control of the General Assembly last year.

"Anyone who thinks the pendulum can't swing back just as quickly isn't paying attention," Gilbert said.

Likely the most prominent debate this year will be on gun control, an area where Democrats have promised

significant changes.

Democrats want to mandate universal background checks, ban assault weapons and pass a red flag law to allow the temporary removal of guns from someone who is deemed to be dangerous to themselves or others.

Guns became a major issue in last year's legislative elections after a gunman killed a dozen people in Virginia Beach in May. A gun-control group backed by former New York City Mayor and 2020 presidential hopeful Michael Bloomberg spent heavily to help Democrats win a majority.

Ahead of this session, gun-rights groups have pledged stiff defiance. The Virginia Citizens Defense League, a prominent pro-gun group, said it plans to have "enough citizens armed with handguns to take over a modern mid-sized country" at its annual "lobby day" later this month.

Other flash points this session could be between liberal and moderate Democrats, particularly on business-related issues such as Virginia's status as a "right to work" state that blocks mandatory union fees in workplaces and efforts to put new restrictions on the short-term, high-interest loan industry and Dominion Energy, the state's largest electric monopoly. □

## Guatemalan seeking asylum sues U.S. to reunite with family

**BOSTON (AP)** — A Guatemalan woman seeking asylum in Massachusetts is suing the federal government to reunite with her partner and son, who have been ordered to remain in Mexico under the Trump administration's asylum process.

The lawsuit filed on behalf of Maudy Constanza and her partner, Hanz Morales, argues the asylum policy violates constitutional due process and equal protection rights.

"United States law protects asylum seekers like Ms. Constanza, Mr. Morales, and their children,"

the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts said in the suit filed Friday in federal court in Boston. "The law forbids sending people to countries where they will be persecuted or tortured, and provides migrants with an opportunity to see an immigration judge before they may be sent to a place where they fear such persecution or torture."

The civil rights group said the couple fled Guatemala with their three young children last year after Morales was shot four times. The family traveled together to Mexico but split up

just before crossing the U.S. border in July 2019.

Constanza and the couple's two daughters were released into the U.S. to pursue their asylum claim, but Morales and their 9-year-old son were returned to Mexico.

They are among more than 50,000 people who have been sent back to the country as a result of President Donald Trump's Remain in Mexico policy, which took effect in January 2019.

Formally known as the Migrant Protection Protocols, the policy requires asylum seekers from certain

Spanish-speaking nations, including Guatemala, to wait out the U.S. immigration court process in Mexico.

But while living in Mexico, Morales and his son have survived an attempted kidnapping, struggled to find food and rarely leave their home because of the violent and dangerous conditions near the border, according to the ACLU.

The organization wants a federal judge to declare the asylum policy unlawful and allow Morales and his son to await the outcome of their case in the U.S. with the rest of their family.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which is named in the suit, declined to comment.

The ACLU and other groups sued last year in San Francisco federal court on behalf of 11 migrants challenging the asylum policy. An appeals court panel heard arguments in the case in October but has yet to rule.

The ACLU's San Diego chapter has also sued the federal government over the policy, arguing that asylum-seekers should have access to an attorney before being returned to Mexico to wait. □



This photo shows an IKEA location in Philadelphia, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020.

Associated Press

## IKEA to pay \$46M in boy's dresser tipover death, lawyers say

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — IKEA has agreed to pay \$46 million to the parents of a 2-year-old boy who died of injuries suffered when a 70-pound (32-kilogram) recalled dresser tipped over onto him, the family's lawyers said Monday. Jozef Dudek, of Buena Park, California, died in 2017 of his injuries, and his parents sued the Swedish home furnishings company in a Philadelphia court in 2018. In the lawsuit, the Dudeks accused IKEA of knowing that its Malm dressers posed a tip-over hazard

and that they had injured or killed a number of children, but that the company had failed to warn consumers that the dressers shouldn't be used without being anchored to a wall. The dresser was recalled in 2016, according to the suit. The settlement also requires IKEA to meet with the advocacy organization, Parents Against Tipovers, and broaden its outreach to consumers about the recall of IKEA dressers, according to the Dudek's lawyers, Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelemer Tanner Weinstock Dodig. □

## Lawsuit: Gas utility's neglect led to fatal house explosion

**CAMPTON, Ky. (AP)** — The deaths of three people in a Kentucky home explosion are the fault of a utility company that failed to respond adequately to concerns about the smell of gas, relatives of the explosion victims say in a lawsuit. The Nov. 23 explosion instantly killed Phillip Vanderpool, 52, and his wife Sueann Vanderpool, 48. The owner of the home, Albert Vanderpool, 80, died days later. He was Phillip Vanderpool's father, news media reported. In a wrongful death lawsuit against Troublesome Creek

Gas Corp., Phillip Vanderpool's children say leaking gas ignited and exploded, killing their parents, WLEX-TV reported. The lawsuit says the family called the next day and the same technician came without fixing anything. The family called two more times but the company didn't send anyone to investigate, according to the lawsuit. The lawsuit says technicians came to the house the day of the explosion and told the family the residence was safe and that they would be back. □



In this Aug. 13, 2001, file frame from video provided by C-SPAN, Thomas Hofeller speaks during an event at the Republican National Committee in Washington.

Associated Press

## Daughter of late redistricting guru reveals more of his work

**By GARY D. ROBERTSON RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)** — Thousands of formerly confidential documents and emails that influenced the outcome of a partisan gerrymandering lawsuit have been made public. A judge has yet to decide whether others should stay confidential. The documents and emails belonging to the late Thomas Hofeller were placed on a website over the weekend by his daughter, Stephanie Hofeller. Hofeller said she first discovered them while visiting her parents' home in Raleigh shortly after her father's death in August 2018. Stephanie Hofeller was estranged both personally and politically from her father at the time of his death and was critical of his work. Last year, she contacted lawyers for the nonprofit organization Common Cause North Carolina to tell them about the documents. The group, along with state Democrats, subpoenaed the files for use in a lawsuit that accused Republican lawmakers of illegal racial and partisan gerrymandering in the redrawing of state legislative districts.

A very small number of the documents were used by the lawyers; a state court put the rest under a confidentiality order. A Wake County judge ruled in November that more than 100,000 of the documents were no longer subject to the order because they were Thomas Hofeller's individual work. Attorneys, including one representing Hofeller's business partner, are still fighting over which of the remaining files should stay secret. But Stephanie Hofeller, who was not subject to the order because she isn't a party in the lawsuit, signaled weeks ago that she would be making many of the documents she obtained public. "They belong to everybody, as they are evidence that concern The People, their right to franchise and their access to shared resources," she wrote in a statement on the website. Thomas Hofeller had a nearly 50-year career in redistricting and had worked extensively over the past decade on North Carolina maps that helped pad and retain Republican majorities in the General Assembly. Court rulings last year

struck down dozens of North Carolina General Assembly districts. The documents Stephanie Hofeller retrieved from external hard drives contain redistricting work her father did in several other states and also revealed his role in the Trump administration's efforts to include a citizenship question on 2020 census forms. Courts also blocked the citizenship question for the census. The files released on the website include statistics, tables, maps and other paperwork related to redistricting in North Carolina and other states including Arizona, Missouri, New York, Texas and Virginia. They also show extensive data collected on behalf of Republican lawyers defending a 2013 state law that narrowed voting access with provisions such as requiring a photo ID. Asked whether the documents that appear on the website are the same as those held by Common Cause, a spokeswoman for the organization declined to comment Monday. A lawyer for Stephanie Hofeller, Tom Sparks, said he was confident that the files she uploaded are authentic. □

# EU regrets Iran nuclear moves but hopes to keep deal alive

By **LORNE COOK**  
Associated Press

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — The European Union expressed regret on Monday over Iran's announcement that it will no longer be bound by all its nuclear obligations, but remained determined to keep alive an international deal preventing the Islamic Republic from developing atomic weapons.

The 2015 nuclear agreement has been on life support since President Donald Trump unilaterally abandoned it in 2018, triggering sanctions that have hurt Iran's moribund economy. Since then, Tehran has gradually rolled back its commitment to the deal.

After its top general was assassinated in a U.S. drone attack, Iran announced over the weekend that it would no longer respect limits set on how many centrifuges it can use to enrich uranium. Foreign Minister Javad Zarif said the move was a "remedial step" taken within the framework of the



**In this photo released by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, technicians work at the Arak heavy water reactor's secondary circuit, as officials and media visit the site, near Arak, 150 miles southwest of the capital Tehran, Iran, Monday, Dec. 23, 2019.**

Associated Press

nuclear deal and he said it could be reversed.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell expressed "deep regret" at the news. He tweeted that full imple-

mentation of the nuclear deal by all parties "is now more important than ever, for regional stability and global security."

The EU supervises the deal

under which Tehran limits its nuclear ambitions in exchange for economic incentives, but it relies on the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog to monitor whether Iran is

complying, as it has continued to do so far despite its belligerent rhetoric.

"We have to rely on, and see, what the International Atomic Energy Agency says about the deeds on the ground," Borrell's spokesman, Peter Stano, told reporters.

The IAEA told The Associated Press that it was aware of Iran's announcement, but noted that Tehran's statement "also said that Iran's cooperation with the Agency will continue as before."

"IAEA inspectors continue to carry out verification and monitoring activities in the country," the agency said in an e-mailed statement. "The IAEA will keep its member states informed of any developments in this regard in a timely manner as appropriate."

Iran's announcement and the U.S. killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad last week has sparked a flurry of diplomatic activity in Europe. □

# Merkel to meet Putin in Moscow for talks on Mideast crises

Associated Press

**BERLIN (AP)** — German Chancellor Angela Merkel will travel to Moscow on Saturday to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin amid growing tensions in the Middle East and elsewhere, officials said Monday.

Merkel and Putin will discuss "current international questions," said Steffen Seibert, the chancellor's spokesman.

Those will include Syria, Libya, Iran, Iraq, Ukraine and bilateral ties.

"Russia is an important player on the world stage and as a permanent member of the (U.N.) Security Council it's also indispensable when it comes to solving political conflicts," Seibert said. Germany is currently a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

Germany and Russia are among the world powers that have been trying to salvage the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran after the U.S. withdrew from the agree-



**German Chancellor Angela Merkel takes questions as part of a meeting of the German parliament, Bundestag, at the Reichstag building in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019.**

Associated Press

ment unilaterally in 2018.

Merkel has already spoken with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday about the situation in the Middle East, Seibert said.

Germany has offered to mediate between all parties following the killing of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani in a U.S. airstrike in Iraq last week.

Foreign Minister Heiko

Maas, who will accompany Merkel to Moscow, spent "all weekend on the phone" with his European and American counterparts, his spokesman Rainer Breul told reporters.

He added that talks with the Iranian foreign minister were planned "soon."

Germany may struggle to portray itself as an honest broker between Washington and Tehran, however.

Iran summoned Germany's charge d'affaires in Tehran to the foreign ministry Sunday to express annoyance over comments by German officials that suggested Berlin considered Soleimani's killing to be justified.

Asked to elaborate on about Germany's stance, Merkel's spokesman said that the killing of Soleimani "was preceded by Iranian actions," citing attacks on Saudi Arabian oil facilities, tankers in the Strait of Hormuz and the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

"We have always stressed, and perhaps this is an opportunity to do so once more, that we see these regional activities by (Iran) in particular in a very critical way and that they play a negative role in this region," Seibert said. □



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## Kenya police: 3 arrested trying to enter British Army camp

By TOM ODULA  
CARA ANNA

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)** — Kenyan police say they arrested three "terrorist suspects" who tried to force their way into a British Army training camp on the same day al-Shabab extremists attacked a military base and killed three U.S. military personnel.

An internal police report seen by The Associated Press says the three men were arrested Sunday after trying to enter the British Army Training Unit in Laikipia county. The British army said in a statement that Kenyan police were investigating "suspicious activity" and that "we do not believe there was a direct threat to UK personnel or assets."

Meanwhile new details emerged in the al-Shabab attack, the al-Qaida-linked group's first assault against



In this photo taken Aug. 26, 2019 and released by the U.S. Air Force, a U.S. Air Force C-130J Super Hercules approaches for landing at Camp Simba, Manda Bay, Kenya.

Associated Press

U.S. forces inside Kenya. The attack at Manda Bay Airfield killed 23-year-old U.S. Army Specialist Henry Mayfield Jr., the NBC af-

filiate in Chicago reported, citing a family statement. Two other Americans, contractors with the U.S. Department of Defense, were

killed but their names have not been released. No Kenyans were killed, Kenya's military spokesman Paul Njuguna said Monday.

Al-Shabab has vowed retribution for Kenyan troops fighting it in neighboring Somalia, where it is based. Five U.S. aircraft, including fixed-wing and helicopters, were destroyed and one damaged in the hour-long assault at the airfield in coastal Lamu county, the U.S. Africa Command told the AP.

The U.S. military later said its East Africa Response Force had arrived to increase security there. It did not say how many troops were involved.

Photos shared with the AP by a security source showed the five dead al-Shabab attackers wearing military uniforms. It was not clear whether the uniforms were Kenyan or Somali. Some al-Shabab fighters have worn military uniforms in past attacks. The photos also showed an al-Shabab flag. □

## France enters crucial week of talks with unions on pensions

By SYLVIE CORBET  
Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — French President Emmanuel Macron says he wants to reach a "quick compromise" in talks this week with worker unions as nationwide protests and strikes rage on against the government's plans to overhaul the pension system.

During a Cabinet meeting on Monday, Macron insisted that the new system must be financially sustainable, according to government spokeswoman Sibeth Ndiaye.

Talks between the prime minister and worker unions are to resume Tuesday, in-

cluding on the financing of the retirement system. Macron also said that people doing physically demanding or dangerous work should be allowed to retire early.

"We want to end this crisis rapidly," Ndiaye said.

The government plans to formally present the bill by the end of the month ahead of a debate in parliament, so that the law can be voted on this summer.

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told France Inter radio that "a compromise has never been so close."

Yet several unions called for nationwide protests on Thursday and Saturday. The



Commuters exit the Paris subway during the 32th day of transport strikes, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020.

Associated Press

hard-left union CGT union also called for workers to disrupt the country's oil de-

pots and refineries later this week.

The national rail company,

SNCF, said train traffic was improving Monday across the country, with 8 out of 10 high-speed trains running.

Yet the Paris metro was still severely disrupted, with most of lines open only for a limited amount of time and several stations closed.

In his televised New Year's address, Macron vowed to carry out the overhaul of the pension system.

Macron wants to unify France's 42 different pension schemes, some of which grant early retirement, into a single one. Plans include raising the eligibility age for full pensions from 62 to 64, the most criticized measure. □

# Throng mourn, Iranian leader weeps for general slain by US

By **NASSER KARIMI**  
**JON GAMBRELL**  
**Associated Press**

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — Iran's supreme leader wept Monday over the casket of a top general killed in a U.S. airstrike, his prayers joining the wails of mourners who flooded the streets of Tehran demanding retaliation against America for a slaying that's drastically raised tensions across the Middle East.

The funeral for Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani drew a crowd said by police to be in the millions in the Iranian capital, filling thoroughfares and side streets as far as the eye could see. Although there was no independent estimate, aerial footage and Associated Press journalists suggested a turnout of at least 1 million, and the throngs were visible on satellite images of Tehran taken Monday.

Authorities later brought his remains and those of the others to Iran's holy city of Qom, turning out another massive crowd.

The outpouring of grief was an unprecedented honor for a man viewed by Iranians as a national hero for his work leading the Guard's expeditionary Quds Force. The U.S. blames him for the killing of American troops in Iraq and accused him of plotting new attacks just before his death Friday in a drone strike at Baghdad's airport. Soleimani also led forces in Syria backing President Bashar Assad in a long war.

His slaying already has pushed Tehran to abandon the remaining limits of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers as his successor and others vow to take revenge. In Baghdad, the parliament has called for the expulsion of all American troops from Iraqi soil, something analysts fear could allow Islamic State militants to mount a comeback.

Soleimani's daughter, Zeinab, directly threatened the U.S. military in the Middle East while also warning President Donald Trump, whom she called "crazy."



**Mourners attend a funeral ceremony for Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and his comrades, who were killed in Iraq in a U.S. drone strike on Friday, at the Enqelab-e-Eslami (Islamic Revolution) square in Tehran, Iran, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

"The families of the American soldiers ... will spend their days waiting for the death of their children," she said to cheers.

Her language mirrored warnings by other Iranian officials who say an attack on U.S. military interests in the Middle East looms. Iranian state TV and others online shared a video that showed Trump's American flag tweet following Soleimani's killing turn into a coffin, the "likes" of the tweet replaced by over 143,000 "killed."

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei prayed over the caskets of Soleimani and others at Tehran University after a brief mourning period at the capital's famed Musalla mosque. The mosque was where prayers were said over the body of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, after his death in 1989.

Khamenei, who had a close relationship with Soleimani and referred to him as a "living martyr," broke down in tears four times while offering Muslim prayers for the dead.

"Oh God, you took their spirits out of their bodies as they were rolling in their blood for you and were martyred in your way," Khamenei said as the crowd wailed. Soleimani

will be buried Tuesday in his hometown of Kerman. Soleimani's successor, Esmail Ghaani, stood near Khamenei's side as did President Hassan Rouhani and other leaders of the Islamic Republic. While Iran recently faced nationwide protests over government-set gasoline prices that reportedly led to the killing of over 300, Soleimani's death has brought together people from across the country's political spectrum, temporarily silencing that anger.

Demonstrators burned Israeli and U.S. flags, carried a flag-draped U.S. coffin or displayed effigies of Trump. Some described Trump as a legitimate target.

Mohammad Milad Rashidi, a 26-year-old university graduate, predicted more tension ahead.

"Trump demolished the chance for any sort of possible agreement between Tehran and Washington," Rashidi said. "There will be more conflict in the future for sure."

Another mourner, Azita Mardani, warned that Iran "will retaliate for every drop of his blood."

"We are even thankful to (Trump) because he made us angry and this fury will lead to shedding of their blood in the Persian Gulf and the region's countries,"

Mardani said. "Here will become their graveyard."

Ghaani made his own threat in an interview shown Monday on Iranian state television. "God the Almighty has promised to get his revenge, and God is the main avenger. Certainly actions will be taken," he said.

Markets reacted Monday to the tensions, sending international benchmark Brent crude above \$70 a barrel for part of the day and gold to a seven-year high. The Middle East remains a crucial source of oil, and Iran in the past has threatened the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all the world's oil traded passes.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, chairing emergency talks with the alliance's ambassadors in Brussels, called for "restraint and de-escalation," adding: "A new conflict would be in no one's interest."

Ghaani, a longtime Soleimani deputy, has taken over as the head of the Revolutionary Guard's Quds, or Jerusalem, Force, answerable only to Khamenei. Ghaani has been sanctioned by the U.S. since 2012 for his work funding its global operations, including its work with proxies in Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen.

Those proxies likely will be involved in any operation targeting U.S. interests in the Middle East or elsewhere.

Already, the U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia warned Americans "of the heightened risk of missile and drone attacks." In Lebanon, the leader of the Iranian-backed militant group Hezbollah said Soleimani's killing made U.S. military bases, warships and service members across the region fair game for attacks.

"We promise to continue down martyr Soleimani's path as firmly as before with help of God, and in return for his martyrdom we aim to get rid of America from the region," Ghaani said.

The head of the Guard's aerospace program, Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, suggested Iran's response wouldn't stop with a single attack.

"Firing a couple of missiles, hitting a base or even killing Trump is not valuable enough to compensate for martyr Soleimani's blood," Hajizadeh said on state TV. "The only thing that can compensate for his blood is the complete removal of America from the region."

On the nuclear deal, Iran now says it won't observe the accord's restrictions on fuel enrichment, on the size of its enriched uranium stockpile and on its research and development activities. That's a much harsher step than they had planned to take before the attack.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson have urged Iran to "withdraw all measures" not in line with the deal.

Iran insisted it remains open to negotiations with European partners over its nuclear program. And it did not back off from earlier promises that it wouldn't seek a nuclear weapon.

However, the announcement represents the clearest nuclear proliferation threat yet made by Iran since Trump unilaterally withdrew from the accord in 2018 and reimposed sanctions last year. □

## Japan vows to improve border checks, bail after Ghosn flight

**TOKYO (AP)** — Japan's justice minister vowed Monday to strengthen border departure checks and review bail conditions after Nissan's former chairman, Carlos Ghosn, fled the country.

Masako Mori told reporters at a news conference the ministry has already acted to prevent a recurrence but declined to give details.

She was asked about reports that Ghosn had hidden in a box and that baggage checks at a regional airport might have been insufficient.

Ghosn skipped bail while awaiting trial on various financial misconduct allegations and later said from Lebanon that he did it to escape injustice.

Mori declined to say who might be held responsible for such a high-profile flight, stressing it was still under investigation.

She said Ghosn left illegally, denouncing it as an "unjustifiable" crime.

"Japan's justice system allows investigating the facts while it ensures the individual basic human rights at the same time," Mori told reporters at the ministry.

"It is set with appropriate procedures and it is operated appropriately."

But she acknowledged the case was being looked at under an ongoing review



Japanese Justice Minister Masako Mori speaks about Nissan's former Chairman Carlos Ghosn during a press conference at her ministry in Tokyo, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020.

Associated Press

of the nation's judicial system, including introducing electronic tethers to monitor those out on bail.

"We are aware of the criticisms," Mori said, referring to human rights advocates' descriptions of Japan's legal system as "hostage justice."

Ghosn and others say Japan's system takes too long and is inhumane. Ghosn was banned from meeting with his wife while out on bail. Preparing for his trial has taken about a year, and a date has not been

set. Ghosn was detained, twice, for a total of 130 days before he was released on bail a second time.

Mori said each nation has its own judicial system and arrests are rarer in Japan than in other countries, suggesting arrests are made only when the authorities are fairly confident they have a case.

"Simple comparisons are misleading," she said. Takashi Takano, one of Ghosn's lawyers in Japan, said he felt sad and betrayed Ghosn didn't try

to win a verdict of innocence in court, but also expressed an understanding how Ghosn might have lost hope with not only the prosecutors but the entire Japanese judicial system. Lawyer Yuichi Kaido said he was troubled by what he saw as the growing negative public reaction of demanding bail be refused for foreign suspects, noting Japanese don't empathize with Ghosn's actions at all. He said in an online statement he feared Japan wouldn't be able to bear

the overwhelming international criticism of its legal system, which Ghosn will likely continue in Lebanon, and instead grow even more insular and rigid in its views.

Details of Ghosn's stunning escape last week are unclear. But Turkish airline company MNG Jet said two of its planes were used illegally, first flying him from Osaka, Japan, to Istanbul, and then on to Beirut, where he arrived last Monday and has not been seen since.

Lebanon has said he entered legally with a French passport.

Ghosn promised to talk to reporters on Wednesday. His lawyers in Japan said they knew nothing about the escape and felt betrayed by his action.

Once an auto industry superstar, Ghosn was first arrested in November 2018. While out on bail, he was living in a home in an upscale part of Tokyo under strict surveillance as part of the conditions for his release. That raises questions about how he left undetected.

Security cameras at his home operated 24 hours a day, but the footage only had to be submitted to the court on a monthly basis, according to lawyers' documents detailing Ghosn's bail conditions. □

## New top China official in HK brings wishes from 'motherland'

Associated Press

**HONG KONG (AP)** — As Hong Kong enters its eighth month of anti-government protests, Beijing's new top official in the territory said Monday that he has full confidence in the city's long-term prosperity and stability □— so long as it has the support of mainland China.

"The motherland has always been Hong Kong's most powerful backing," Luo Huining said in his first public remarks since becoming the head of China's liaison office in the city over the weekend. "For Hong Kong, one country, two systems is the greatest advantage."

The semiautonomous Chinese territory is in its eighth month of fiery anti-government demonstrations. The movement, dominated by young people wary of President Xi Jinping's Communist Party-led central government, began in response to now-withdrawn legislation that would have allowed Hong Kong residents to be extradited to the mainland to stand trial. A former British colony, Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997 under the so-called "one country, two systems framework," which promises the city certain democratic rights not afforded to the mainland.

In recent years, Hong Kong residents have chafed at greater restrictions on public expression, including the jailing of pro-democracy activists.

"Over the last six months, Hong Kong's situation has been worrying," Luo said. He called the city the "Pearl of the Orient" and acknowledged Hong Kongers' important contributions to China's economic reform and opening up.

"I sincerely wish Hong Kong and Hong Kong compatriots well," he said.

Luo is the former Communist Party chief of northern Shanxi province. He replaces Wang Zhimin, who had



Newly appointed head of China's liaison office in Hong Kong, Luo Huining gestures as he speaks during a media briefing at the China's liaison office in Hong Kong, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020.

Associated Press

assumed office in September 2017. No official rea-

son has been given for the change. □

# 5.8-magnitude quake strikes Puerto Rico, damaging homes

By **DANICA COTO**

**Associated Press**

**GUÁNICA, Puerto Rico (AP)**

— A 5.8-magnitude quake hit Puerto Rico before dawn Monday, unleashing small landslides, causing power outages and severely cracking some homes. It was one of the strongest quakes yet to hit the U.S. territory that has been shaking for the past week.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The quake was followed by a string of smaller temblors, including another quake measured at magnitude 5 that struck later Monday, at 10:51 a.m. (1451 GMT), shaking power lines and frightening residents of southern Puerto Rico who had been waiting outside their homes due to fears the buildings were damaged and unstable.

The first quake struck at 6:32 a.m. (1032 GMT) just south of the island at a relatively shallow depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles), according to the U.S. Geological Service. There was no tsunami threat, officials said.

Power outages were reported in some parts of Puerto Rico following the quake, Angel Vazquez, emergency management



**Residents survey damage where a home partially collapsed after an earthquake hit Guánica, Puerto Rico, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

director for the southern coastal city of Ponce, told The Associated Press.

"This is one of the strongest quakes to date since it started shaking on Dec. 28," he said. "It lasted a long time."

Helicopters buzzed overhead as terrified residents jumped up from their folding chairs every time the earth shook, yelling at others to stay away from power lines.

Few people dared go back inside their homes,

but José Quiñones, 54, had no choice. His 80-year-old mother had heart problems and was lying in bed. Dozens of people in a neighborhood called Hope in the southwest town of Guánica walked around with their phones and yelled out the magnitude of the latest earthquakes as they tried to calm children who were forced to open their presents on Three Kings Day, a religious holiday, on streets and sidewalks.

"This is hell," said Alberto Ro-

dríguez, 43, whose home collapsed on its side as the smell of gas filled the air. "We haven't slept... you can't remain calm here. Guánica is no longer a safe place."

Less than a block away, Silvestre Alicea surveyed his home whose foundation collapsed on his bright blue 1977 Toyota Corolla, a prized possession.

He jumped from his balcony as the home collapsed. Alicea had lived in New York for years until he re-

tired to Guánica two years ago to live in the home he spent 15 years building. He doesn't have insurance.

In this working class neighborhood, people shared soda and snacks as they sought shelter from a harsh sun, careful to stay away from homes whose columns and foundations were heavily cracked.

Many already had bags packed in their cars with a change of clothes, food, water and medicine.

Some like Noelia De Jesús, 69, and her husband, who uses a wheelchair, didn't know where they would spend the night. Government officials who inspected their home earlier in the morning said it was unsafe to live in and advised them to stay elsewhere.

"Everything broke, including the TV," she said. "This is horrible."

Puerto Rico doesn't have a public earthquake warning system, except for sirens that are supposed to ring in case of a tsunami. Residents in this neighborhood criticized the government for what they believe is a lack of action.

Dr. Sindia Alvarado, who lives in the southern coastal town of Penuelas, said she was petrified. □

# Women perform in favor of abortion before Mexican cathedral



**Women participate in a performance in support of abortion rights next to the cathedral in Mexico City, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

By **AMY GUTHRIE**

**Associated Press**

**MEXICO CITY (AP)**

— A dozen women wearing green scarves lined up in front of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Mexico City's central

square on Sunday to call for legal and safe abortions throughout Mexico.

Abortion is highly restricted in the country of 120 million inhabitants, with the exception of the capital Mexico

City and the southern state of Oaxaca, where the procedure is allowed up to 12 weeks of gestation.

To the sound of a metal spoon clanking against an iron frying pan, the women performed a variation of "A Rapist in Your Path" — the viral dance sequence concocted by the Chilean feminist collective La Tesis to protest violence against women. The moves are the same, but the words have changed; in this version, an "objector" stands in their path.

"The patriarchy is a judge that judges us for living, and our punishment is to force us to give birth," the women sang while tapping their heels on the ground. The group dubbed themselves Aborting Queens,

since the performance took place on the eve of the Three Kings' holiday — when children in Latin America receive gifts purportedly from the wise men who bestowed myrrh, gold, and frankincense on baby Jesus.

Performer Perla Rosales, 25, said she aborted three years ago because she felt she wasn't ready to be a mother.

"I would love to be a mom, I love children, but as I want to decide when, how, where, why I am going to be a mom — I want all the other women to do the same," she said. "At this moment I don't want a child. I don't have the economic possibilities, nor the time, nor the desire to be a mom."

The performance took place in a small plaza in front of the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Assumption of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary into Heavens, which is also the seat of the Catholic Archdiocese of Mexico.

"We wanted to do it there to single out the church, the structure as such and religion in general, as at fault for our oppression," said Fanny González, 26, who accompanies women to abortions.

Surveys by pollster Mitofsky show that a slight majority of Mexicans believe all women in the country should be allowed to abort. Some states only allow abortions in cases of rape or when the mother's life is in danger. □

# LOCAL



## Aruba Living Today celebrates 10 Years of Success: A Different Approach to Real Estate with a Personal Touch



**NOORD — They drive around with you to help you to get to know the island. They arrange your mortgage, insurances, notary and appraisals as they have a Dutch certified appraiser on staff. They assist you in going through the needed bureaucracy during the buying process. They help you with the connection of utilities. They do your property management, vacation rental and help you import your furniture. Everything that comes in with buying a house on the island is within the package they offer. You get the whole nine yard. Who are they? Please meet Aruba Living Today!**

"My goal was to do real estate in a different way when I established this company June 1st 2009. Not from the perspective of only selling, but to look for the perfect match between dream house and client. My philosophy is: it will only work when all involved are happy and connected by that personal touch," says Randolph Arends, owner of Aruba Living Today. Together with his business partner Berend Prenger and a dedicated team they practice what they preach: mediation in Real Estate with a high service level. "I am proud to state that so far all of my clients stayed with us. I am not selling a fairytale, in ten years of course there were challenges too but it is about how you handle those. It's like with family, you stick together with ups and downs. But the love is there."

### All Happens Here

Aruba Living Today is located in an authentic Aruban house, welcoming you in a warm ambiance that emphasizes the philosophy of connecting. There are candles, Buddha ornaments, magazines, and a homey ambiance for you to sit and talk about your dream house or investment. "We are a one stop shopping point. We are not only selling a house, we take all out of your hands. It is a totally different approach that is not pushy, but showing you we do care that you feel at home here on our island. We know the island and its ups and downs. We guide you through the full process in order for you to make a proper decision," says Berend.

### What Do We Do

Services offered by Aruba Living Today are House and Land Sales, Rentals, Investments, Property Management, Vacation Rental, Mortgages, Insurances, Maintenance, Assist in Arrangements for Notary and Utilities, Guiding Bureaucracy Process and Assisting in Import of Furniture. Berend is also a certified appraiser within the Dutch Kingdom meaning he does your appraisal report that is accepted by all banks and he delivers within three days. "Exceptional for Aruba. This definitely speeds up the process of buying," he says. This different approach of real estate is what sets Aruba Living Today apart and is also the reason why Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. "The personal touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion and I can only do this from the heart."

Aruba Living Today caters for both local and foreign market divided into 40% local buyers and 60% foreign buyers. "Our custom-



ers come from Holland, Belgium, Norway, Germany, UK, Russia, Latin America, United States and Canada. We are widely covered and thus provable good with different cultures, also we speak four languages." Besides that Aruba Living Today is open to every budget, they have listings for all category buyers. As a member of the Aruban Real Estate Association they are listed also on the website [www.arubalisting.com](http://www.arubalisting.com) within a group of 20 of the most advanced realtors on the island. Aruba Living Today is featured as well on Home & Garden TV and you can find them on House Hunters, Social Media under Aruba Living Today and of course in Aruba Today's newspaper. □



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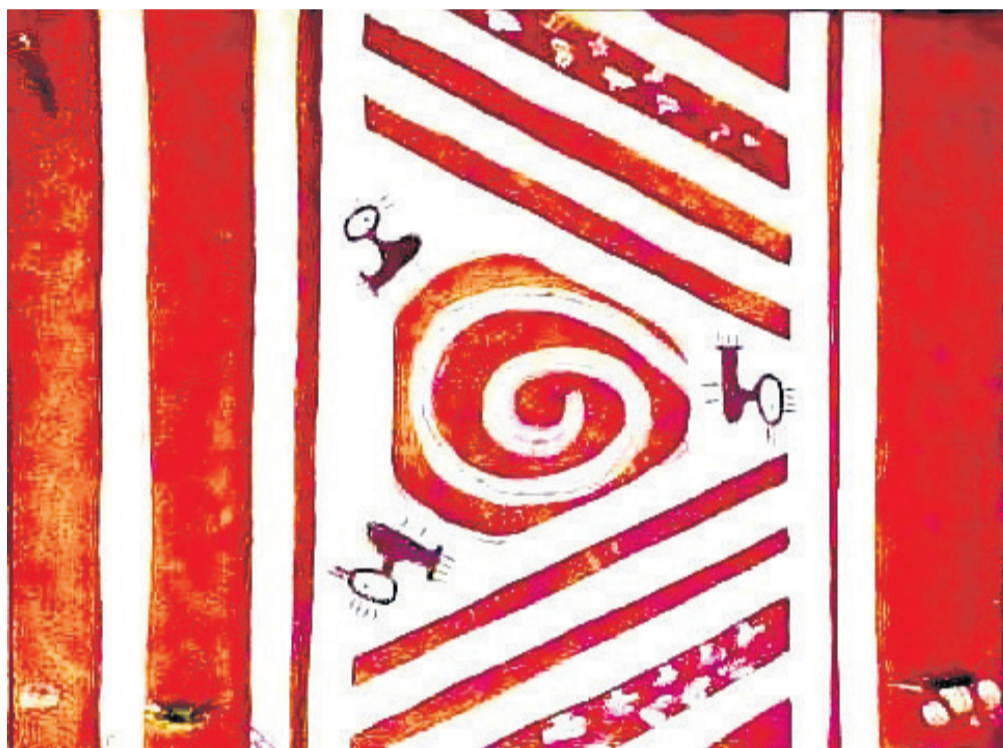


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## Caribbean Indigenous Art Caquetian Designs Episode LI -51

**ORANJESTAD** — The anthropology of art studies art in relation to the cultural context in which Aruban's claim to inherit is inspired in these art works. This offers a vision of the ideas that guard and mobilize the aesthetic creation, and analyzes the multiple universes where it is expressed and works.



**Patrish:** representing the crested bobwhite who's song remind us to the song for the dead.

The encounter of indigenous societies with the conquerors amazed by the reality of a New World, had a convergence in a cultural confrontation where aesthetic and symbolic factors were part of it, flowing to our time through history and archeology, to recover objects of knowledge and as components of new processes of artistic creation and a sense of belonging to an unique and separate group of people that has survived ages of suppression while using this same principals to claim and obtain a special status whit in the Dutch kingdom

Aruba conserves an indigenous patrimonial legacy with strong aesthetic values. Etnia Nativa rediscovers studies and admires the expressive power of this legacy, incorporating artistic archaeological objects of our cultural heritage.

Fertility Deity 'Warawashi que' 'Warawashi que' was the name to which the women of the Aruban's fishermen were known.

This was a Deity of Fertility for our Caquetio natives which its original is displayed in the AMA Archaeological Museum Aruba.

The same happens with the bat. Figures that represents totems. Enigmatic animals, who symbolizes happiness and wisdom received from spirits of the underworld, Cave dwellers whit the ability to pass through special portals in order to bring back spiritual massages for the shamans of what to expect.

Frog fertility totem: The frog as spirit animal or totem reminds us of the transient nature of our lives. As symbol of transition and transformation, this spirit animal supports us in times of change. Strongly associated with the water element, it connects us with the world of emotions and feminine energies.

The Dori is Aruba's only frog species and an ancestral fertility totem. The association with the rainy season explains it all.



In this abstract figure: if we notice you can observe the figure of a fish in vertical position and the vagina of the woman represented the mouth of a fish made out of clay. The pregnant woman figure represents what fertility will bring, life and renewal.



Continued on Page 15

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- The Collectables

**Caribbean Indigenous Art Caquetian Designs**

**Episode II -51**

Continued from Page 14

Happy Dori's sing all night in celebration of the coming harvest and abundance.

The rattlesnake; care taker of the Cunuco or plantation, that travel after sundown and picks on rodents which can damage to harvest. Nowadays we can hardly find this endangered animal since urbanization has taken over the cunuco's and their habitat. Aruba's rattlesnakes are a separate and unique to our island a specie that really deserves our protection.

Etnia Nativa presents an anthropological approach to what we can call ancient Aruban natural relations using art in order to understand the indigenous aesthetic creation of island native expressions. It values the way in which the indigenous universe and its aesthetic production have been recorded throughout history, generating new artistic products. It discusses indigenous aesthetic conceptions, their connection to the natural environment, and how they influenced the processes of cultural interaction with Europeans. Finally, it focuses on ceramics as a key resource for the indigenous aesthetic expression, as a way of anthropological recovery of the precolonial creative production in connection with contemporary art inspired on native Aruban motives.

Native Americans of Aruba, from Caquetian original stock where the local potters well in to the era of Dutch colonial occupation.

They were the expert Ceramists and Potters. Their mastering of this art as a cult was cosmological inspired, expressed throughout their techniques. This heritage was transmitted from generation to generation till the beginning of the 20th century.

Those who participate in our cultural and interactive tour learn the management of anthropological, historical and aesthetic categories, obtain knowledge of anthropology, art history and archeology of both Aruba and the Caribbean and of America as a whole, obtain information concerning resent research of the region, and a generalize comparative vision of indigenous cultures, iconography and aesthetic elements of island societies.

Critical evaluation of cultural heritage management, cultural heritage and the information associated with art and cultural concepts based on artistic creation around the theme.

To get to know more about Aruba and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit to our renowned cultural center, where encounter sessions have been entertaining curious participants for decades. Mail us at [etnianativa03@gmail.com](mailto:etnianativa03@gmail.com) to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels. □



## Double Celebration



**PALM BEACH** — Recently, Jonathan Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba for 20 years consecutive years or more.

The honorees were **Bryan Meccariello and Shari Bornstein** receiving their goodwill ambassador certificate as well as celebrating their wedding anniversary! What a double celebration that was!

The lovely couple stated that they love our island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety and Aruba's warm and friendly people who have become like family to them. Boekhoudt together with the representatives of the Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort Spa and Casino presented the Goodwill Ambassador certificate to the honorees, handed over some additional presents, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

## 21 years loving Aruba



**PALM BEACH** — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

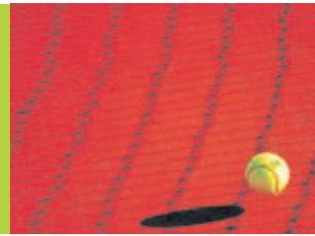
The honorees were **Michael & Karen Hartman** from USA.

This lovely couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for the beautiful weather, nice sandy beaches and breathtaking sunsets, great culinary variety and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Marriot Resort and Stellaris Casino presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



# SPORTS



## AP-NORC poll: 66% favor endorsement money for NCAA athletes

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
AP College Sports Writer

As the NCAA grapples with how to provide athletes opportunities to be compensated for their fame, about two-thirds of Americans support college players being permitted to earn money for endorsements. That's according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Support for the NCAA allowing college athletes to cash in on their names, images and likenesses is especially high among young adults, as well as black Americans and Hispanics, though majorities of white Americans and older adults are also in favor.

NCAA officials and college sports leaders broadly agree, too.

"The opinions of the public in general are very important because they are reflected in the attitudes of universities, who are the ones that actually make the rules," NCAA President Mark Emmert told AP.

How to make this work within the current framework of college athletics while also guarding against corruption in recruiting is what they are trying to sort out.

"That's the challenge that we have," Atlantic Coast Commissioner John Swoford said.

The NCAA board of governors voted in October to permit athletes to benefit from their names, images and likenesses, and directed its 1,100 member schools to have legislation ready for implementation by January 2021.

Continued on Page 23



## Lakers block 20 shots, hold off Pistons 106-99

Detroit Pistons guard Derrick Rose, left, shoots as Los Angeles Lakers center Dwight Howard defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, in Los Angeles.

# Justin Thomas grabs a win he thought he had lost

By **DOUG FERGUSON**  
AP Golf Writer

**KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)** —

Justin Thomas began the new year mildly disappointed by not having won more than he already has on the PGA Tour.

That's not to suggest he ever thought it was easy. Sunday at Kapalua was proof of that.

Thomas won the Sentry Tournament of Champions in a three-man playoff over Patrick Reed and Xander Schauffele for his third victory in his last six starts on the PGA Tour, and the 12th of his career. Thomas, 26, now has more victories than any active players younger than 30.

That took time to digest, mainly because of how he got to No. 12.

He birdied six out of eight holes to turn a two-shot deficit into a two-shot lead with three holes to play.

"Through 15 holes, it was one of the best rounds I had played," he said.

He fell into a playoff by hitting at toe-hook off the tee at the par-5 18th, followed by a 3-wood that landed in knee-high vegetation so thick that a nine-member search party couldn't find



**Justin Thomas holds the champions trophy after winning the Tournament of Champions golf event, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, at Kapalua Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii. Thomas won after a three-hole playoff.**

Associated Press

it. He made bogey. "I botched it up pretty badly," he said.

Schauffele became only the fourth player in the final round to reach the 18th green, a 3-wood that left him a 35-foot eagle attempt. He three-putted for par, missing a 7-foot putt for the win.

Thomas, who had stood off the green with his cap

removed and his head bowed anticipating defeat, suddenly had another chance. It also gave life to Reed, who nearly an hour earlier had made a 20-foot birdie putt for a 66 — matching the best score of the tournament — that he figured would fall short at 14-under 278.

It was the first three-man playoff since the tourna-

ment moved to Kapalua in 1999.

"I got very lucky to even have that opportunity," Thomas said.

Schauffele was eliminated with a three-putt par from 100 feet on the 18th in the playoff. Thomas had to watch Reed have two putts at the win, a 30-foot eagle putt on the first extra hole, a 12-foot birdie putt

on the second extra hole. Reed missed them both, and Thomas finished him off on the final hole before darkness.

"That's what happens when you win," Thomas said. "Obviously, you have to play well and make some putts and hit some shots. But at the end of the day, you need stuff to go your way. And it definitely did today. And it feels great."

It was more crushing for Schauffele than for Reed, even though Reed had the last chance to win.

Schauffele had a one-shot lead going into the final round and was two shots ahead through seven holes when Thomas went on his big run with golf so pure that Schauffele said, "I'd like to see anyone else try it."

But it was right there for him at the end when Thomas chopped up the 18th hole. The wind on the Plantation Course is most treacherous on the greens, with players having to guess if a 30 mph gust will knock putts offline or give them too much speed. That's what cost him on the 18th in regulation, and it cost Reed on the last two playoff holes. □

## Serena Williams, Caroline Wozniacki win 1st doubles match

By **STEVE McMORRAN**  
AP Sports Writer

They're friends, they've both been ranked No. 1 in singles and on Monday they became doubles partners for the first time as Serena Williams and Caroline Wozniacki teamed to win a first-round match at the ASB Classic in Auckland.

Williams and Wozniacki overwhelmed Japan's Nao Hibino and Mikoto Ninomiya 6-2, 6-4 in a match which was both historic and poignant.

The pair jointly have won 24 Grand Slam singles titles — 23 for Serena — and 102 WTA singles titles. Williams additionally has won 23 doubles titles, including 13 Grand Slam and three Olympic titles, mostly in partnership with sister Ve-



**Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki plays a backhand as United States' Serena Williams looks on during their first round doubles match against Japan's Nao Hibino and Makoto Ninomiya at the ASB Classic in Auckland, New Zealand, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020.**

Associated Press

nus. Serena Williams hasn't played doubles with anyone other than Venus since 2015 and last played a WTA tournament with anyone other than Venus

in 2002. Wozniacki hasn't played doubles at all in the last three years.

But the pair have long harbored a desire to take the court as a pairing, and

took what may be their last opportunity.

Wozniacki is playing the New Zealand tournament for the sixth straight year as a prelude to the Australian Open, after which she will retire from competitive tennis. She was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis shortly after winning the title at Melbourne Park in 2018 and has decided to make the Australian Open her last professional tournament before retirement. Wozniacki and Williams will face each other one last time in an exhibition match in Copenhagen in May.

In Auckland, they formed a relaxed and intuitive combination, laughing and exchanging high-fives.

"It was so much fun, I really enjoyed that," Wozniacki said. "I've been around

for a long time and to get to play with Serena was amazing. "It wouldn't be the same if I didn't at least once get to play with her on the same side. She's beaten me a lot of times on the other side so it's actually nice that we can win together for once."

Williams said Wozniacki was in good form.

"It's cool. I can't let the rest of both of our amazing careers go without playing with her. With her doing so well as a Grand Slam champion and a long-time No. 1, of course I want to share the court with her."

Earlier, American teenager Coco Gauff beat Slovakia's Viktoria Kuzmova 6-3, 6-1 in 61 minutes to stay on course for a quarterfinal meeting with Williams in the singles draw. □

# Lakers block 20 shots, hold off Pistons 106-99 in wild 4th

**By The Associated Press**  
**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — LeBron James had 21 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists, and Anthony Davis had eight of the Los Angeles Lakers' 20 blocked shots in their fifth straight victory, 106-99 over the Detroit Pistons on Sunday night.

Davis scored 11 of his 24 points in the final 3:40 and added 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who blew a late 11-point lead in a wild fourth quarter and nearly lost to a team with a losing record for the first time all season.

Instead, Alex Caruso scored 13 points and the Lakers finished one blocked shot short of their franchise record while they hung on to remain unbeaten since Christmas, when they had a four-game skid. Los Angeles had 21 blocks against Denver in April 1982.

James finished with his 90th career triple-double, his ninth of the season and his second in five days.

Derrick Rose scored 28 points and former Lakers guard Svi Mykhailiuk had 14 — one off his career high — for the Pistons, who have lost nine of 11 despite a strong effort against the Western Conference leaders.

**HEAT 122, TRAIL BLAZERS 111**  
**MIAMI (AP)** — Goran Dragic

had 29 points and 13 assists, Bam Adebayo added 20 points on 9-for-10 shooting and Miami never trailed.

Dragic tied a career best with seven 3-pointers. Derrick Jones Jr. scored 19 points for the Heat, who got 14 from Kendrick Nunn and 12 points in 22 minutes from little-used James Johnson — who was called upon largely because Miami was without Jimmy Butler.

Tyler Herro scored 11 points for Miami, as did Meyers Leonard in his first game against his former team.

Damian Lillard led Portland with 34 points and 12 assists. Former Heat center Hassan Whiteside, booed almost every time he touched the ball, finished with 21 points and 18 rebounds for Portland. Anfernee Simons scored 19 points off the bench.

Miami improved the NBA's best home record to 17-1 — two wins shy of its home total for 41 games last season — and is 10-0 after losses.

Both teams were missing starters unexpectedly. Miami was without Butler, who was ruled out because of back soreness. Portland's CJ McCollum was out with an upper-respiratory infection.

**TIMBERWOLVES 118, CAVALIERS 103**

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Goran Dragic scored 22 points, Shabazz Napier had 21 and Minnesota blew a 25-point lead before regrouping to beat Cleveland.

Cleveland rested disgruntled forward Kevin Love and may have lost rookie Kevin Porter Jr. for an extended period with a knee injury.

Andrew Wiggins came back after missing four games with the flu and scored 15 points for the Timberwolves. They won for just the fourth time in 16 games. Dante Exum, recently acquired in a trade with Utah, scored a career-high 28 points — 24 in the second half — for the Cavs. They dropped their fourth in a row amid drama surrounding Love, whose absence for rest came a night after he showed frustration toward teammates in a loss to Oklahoma City.

**CLIPPERS 135, KNICKS 132**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Montrezl Harrell scored 34 points, Paul George and Lou Williams added 32 apiece and Los Angeles bounced back from an ugly loss to beat New York.

A day after a 26-point loss to Memphis in another matinee, the Clippers had at least three players score at least 30 points for the first time in franchise history.



Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis, left, shoots as Detroit Pistons forward Christian Wood defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 106-99.

Associated Press

Marcus Morris led New York with 38 points. RJ Barrett added 24.

**GRIZZLIES 121, SUNS 114**

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Jonas Valanciunas scored 30 points, Dillon Brooks added 19 and Memphis won its second game in two days, holding off Phoenix. Valanciunas shot 12 of 16 from the field, and Brooks made five 3-pointers before foul-

ing out in the final minute. Jaren Jackson Jr. had 15 points and eight rebounds. Memphis has won five of its past eight games, including two of three on its current trip. Devin Booker led the Suns with 40 points to break the franchise record for consecutive games with at least 30 with six. Charles Barkley and Charlie Scott shared the previous mark. □

# AP source: Rebuilding Orioles, Iglesias agree to \$3M deal

**By DAVID GINSBURG**  
**AP Sports Writer**

**BALTIMORE (AP)** — The Orioles filled a hole in the middle of the infield by agreeing to a \$3 million, one-year contract with shortstop José Iglesias, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Monday because no official announcement had been made. The deal includes a club option for 2021.

Iglesias provides the rebuilding Orioles a solid glove and an effective bat. Although Baltimore general manager Mike Elias has cut payroll while trying to overhaul the roster, the Orioles desperately needed a shortstop after trading veteran Jonathan Villar to Miami in December for a minor league pitcher in a cost-cutting move.

The deal would be worth about \$6 million for the 30-year-old Iglesias if Baltimore exercises its 2021 op-

tion.

Iglesias hit .288 and reached career highs with 11 homers and 59 RBIs for Cincinnati last year. Since breaking into the majors with Boston in 2011, Iglesias has a .273 career batting average with the Red Sox, Tigers and Reds.

His defense makes him especially valuable to the Orioles, who will likely have a young starting rotation in need of a strong fielding behind them. Iglesias has had only one season in



In this Sept. 5, 2019, file photo, Cincinnati Reds' Jose Iglesias hits a two-run home run off Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Jason Vargas in the sixth inning of a baseball game in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

which he reached double figures in errors. He committed only nine errors in 144 games with Cincinnati last

year. Villar had 12 errors in 97 games at shortstop with Baltimore last year. □

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## AP source: Cowboys pick McCarthy to replace Garrett as coach

By SCHUYLER DIXON  
AP Pro Football Writer

The Dallas Cowboys didn't take long to settle on Mike McCarthy as their coach after waiting a week to announce they were moving on from Jason Garrett.

McCarthy, who won a Super Bowl at the home of the Cowboys nine years ago as Green Bay's coach, has agreed to become the ninth coach in team history, a person with direct knowledge of the deal said Monday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team hasn't announced the decision.

McCarthy interviewed over the weekend, before the Cowboys made the announcement Sunday that Garrett wouldn't return after 9½ seasons.

Dallas missed the playoffs at 8-8 with high expectations in a make-or-break season for Garrett, whose contract expires next week.



In this Aug. 24, 2018, file photo, Green Bay Packers head coach Mike McCarthy watches during the first half of an NFL preseason football game against the Oakland Raiders, in Oakland, Calif. Associated Press

Green Bay made nine trips to the postseason in his 13 years under McCarthy. The 56-year-old was out of football this season after getting fired during what ended up being a second straight losing season for the Packers in 2018.

McCarthy led the Packers to at least 10 wins in eight of his first 11 seasons, including four trips to the NFC championship game.

Dallas hasn't been that far in the playoffs since the last of the franchise's five Super Bowl titles to finish the 1995 season. The Cowboys missed the playoffs six times in Garrett's nine full seasons. McCarthy also interviewed with Cleveland, Carolina and the New York Giants. He went 125-77-2 in the regular season with the Packers and 10-8 in the playoffs. The Cowboys have just

three playoff wins since their last championship.

With two-time MVP Aaron Rodgers as his quarterback, McCarthy reached the playoffs eight straight years from 2009-16, beating the Garrett-led Cowboys twice in that stretch.

The Cowboys believe they have their next franchise quarterback in Dak Prescott, who was the 2016 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year after replacing the injured Tony Romo and never relinquishing the starting job.

Prescott, whose rookie contract is expiring, and two-time rushing champion Ezekiel Elliott have made the playoffs twice in four seasons and got their first playoff victory in 2018 after losing their postseason debut to Rodgers and McCarthy with Dallas as the NFC's top seed in 2016.

McCarthy was fired after an embarrassing loss at Lambeau Field to Arizona, a defeat that all but sealed

a second straight year without a postseason trip for the Packers.

With a mandate to get the Cowboys past the divisional round for the first time in nearly 25 years, Garrett couldn't build on a 3-0 start. Dallas went 4-8 in the next 12 games with a pair of three-game losing streaks.

The Cowboys still had a chance to make the playoffs with a win at Philadelphia in Week 16, but the 17-9 loss handed their postseason fate to the Eagles for the final week. Philadelphia beat the New York Giants 34-17, eliminating Dallas despite its 47-16 win over Washington.

Dallas finished 8-8 four times under Garrett, who had an 87-70 record, including 2-3 in the playoffs, in nine-plus seasons.

Despite never winning more than one playoff game in a season, the 53-year-old Garrett has the club's second-longest tenure behind Tom Landry. □

# Next up for Tom Brady after early playoff exit? Who knows?

By **BARRY WILNER**  
AP Pro Football Writer

Teammates and opponents, coaches and NFL executives, even most fans recognize that Tom Brady has nothing left to prove. There might be one dissenting voice: Brady himself. Maybe that's why in the midst of the disappointment — and some discontent — with how the Patriots' season ended and how he performed in the second half of the schedule, Brady came pretty close to guaranteeing he will be back for a 21st season. At age 43.

Asked about retirement following the wild-card loss to the Texans, Brady said, "I would say it's pretty unlikely, but, yeah, hopefully unlikely."

Later, to another question about his plans, Brady added:

"Again, I don't want to get too much into the future and stuff. I mean, this team has fought hard. We battled every day, we tried to get better, we worked hard to improve, and I was proud to be a part of this team. Not only this year, but every year."

"Again, I just don't know what's going to happen and I'm not going to predict it. No one needs to make choices at this point. I love playing football, I love playing for this team. I've loved playing for this team for two decades and win-

ning a lot of games. And again, I don't know what it looks like moving forward, so we'll just take it day by day."

Brady doesn't need football any longer from a success standpoint. Not with a record six Super Bowl rings, four MVP honors in the big game, and three league MVP awards. Five years after he has retired, he'll be feted in Canton, Ohio as a first-ballot Hall of Famer. He doesn't need the money, either.

What he seems to require, like so many star athletes, is the competition that spices his existence. The adrenaline explosions. The challenges. The locker room rapport. The practices. The game planning.

Brady surely knows there are few, if any, replacements outside of the game once he leaves the sport for good. Unlike the man he is most compared to among his contemporaries, Peyton Manning, Brady doesn't fit the off-field celebrity role Manning has embraced so well. So, barring physical ailments — and few football players ever have taken care of themselves the way Brady has — another year at the helm of the Patriots or another team appears doable. Here's a peek into which uniform Brady could wind up in for 2020.

#### **PATRIOTS**

Obviously, remaining where he has spent the last



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady leaves the field after losing an NFL wild-card playoff football game to the Tennessee Titans, Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

two decades not only as the face of the franchise but for several years the face of the league is most logical. Or is it?

Maybe Brady would like to try replicating his New England successes with another coach. In part to show he can reach the top in a different system and a different city. In part to display that the Patriots' dynastic run was built on his brilliance more than anything. Should he return to Foxborough, Brady can name his price. Does anyone see owner Robert Kraft balking? Especially after some of the "hometown discounts" Brady allegedly

took in past negotiations? He also would be wise to insist on better personnel around him after the drop-off in talent level at receiver and on the offensive line this season.

#### **CHARGERS**

Brady is a California guy; sure, it's NoCal, but he and his wife, super model Gisele Bündchen, would seem a perfect fit in SoCal. Philip Rivers comes off one of his worst seasons and the Chargers could be ready to move on from their longtime QB. Plus, what better way to move into their new home? They will be overshadowed by the Rams in SoFi Stadium — except with

Brady behind center.

#### **BENGALS**

Brady could play and tutor Joe Burrow. Nah, he's not likely to touch the NFL's worst team.

#### **BEARS**

Brady at 53 might be more reliable than Mitchell Trubisky was this season. And, like New England, Chicago has a top-shelf defense.

#### **COWBOYS**

Maybe Dak Prescott isn't the answer to America's Team's nearly quarter-century Super Bowl drought. We all know how much Jerry Jones likes to create headlines. What a doozy that would be in Big D. □

## LA Rams fire veteran defensive coordinator Wade Phillips

**THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)** — Veteran defensive coordinator Wade Phillips has been fired by the Los Angeles Rams after three winning seasons.

Phillips announced Monday on Twitter that the Rams are not renewing his contract. The 72-year-old says he wants to stay in coaching.

Phillips teamed up on the Rams in 2017 with Sean McVay, who became the youngest head coach in

modern NFL history. Phillips provided leadership and veteran perspective to McVay while running a defense that backstopped the Rams to 33 regular-season victories, two NFC West titles and two playoff berths in three seasons.

The Rams won the NFC championship last season, and Phillips' defense held New England to 13 points in the lowest-scoring Super Bowl ever. But McVay's offense scored only three

points against the Patriots, and its fall from the league's elite continued this season.

Phillips' defense remained largely solid this season, as it had been for his entire tenure in Los Angeles. Led by Aaron Donald, the Rams finished near the middle of the league this season in points and yards allowed, but the defense's bad games were glaring debacles that inflated the statistics of an otherwise

above-average unit.

Phillips has coached in the NFL during every season but one since 1976, working for 11 franchises. He was a head coach at Denver, Buffalo, Dallas, New Orleans, Atlanta and Houston.

He coordinated the defense with which the Broncos won the Super Bowl four years ago.

The Rams' defense consistently outplayed McVay's offense this season, but

its bad games were stinkers. Los Angeles gave up a combined 144 points in losses to Tampa Bay, Baltimore and Dallas while the Rams missed the playoffs by one game.

"I want to thank them for the opportunity to be a part of their success the last 3 years," Phillips wrote. "Most of all I want to thank the players who I loved working with. I still want to coach and feel I can contribute." □



France's Clement Noel celebrates on podium after winning an alpine ski, men's World Cup slalom in Zagreb, Croatia, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020.

Associated Press

## 4th career win sends Noel top of slalom standings

By ERIC WILLEMSSEN

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) —

Clement Noel returned to winning ways Sunday, shrugging off the disappointment of failing to finish a race in front of his French home crowd three weeks ago.

Watched by 8,000 spectators on the Sljeme hill, Noel came from behind to win the first men's World Cup slalom of 2020.

Fourth after the opening leg, Noel edged first-run leader Ramon Zenhausern of Switzerland by 0.07 seconds for his first win of the season and fourth overall.

"It's really amazing," Noel said. "The race was really, really perfect. There are so many people here and the atmosphere was incredible. What a way to start 2020."

Alex Vinatzer of Italy was 0.29 back in third for his first career podium result, while Austria's Mario Matt, who was second behind Zenhausern after the first leg, failed to finish his final run.

Henrik Kristoffersen and Alexis Pinturault, who won the two previous slaloms this season, both failed to recover from disappointing opening runs and finished 19th and ninth, respectively.

"I can be proud of what I did today. It was a tight race but it was a good race," Noel said. "I knew if I did no mistake I could be the fastest."

Zenhausern led Noel by 0.27 seconds but lost fractions of his advantage with each split time in his final run.

"In the end I have to be happy. It was close, it was tight, it was only seven hundredths," said the Swiss skier, who was also looking for his fourth career victory, after winning two city events and one slalom - in Kranjska Gora near the end of the 2018-19 campaign.

Noel started the season by finishing runner-up to Kristoffersen in Levi in November but skied out of the first run of his "home" slalom in Val d'Isere last month.

"In Val d'Isere it was a big disappointment," Noel said. "I wanted not a revenge but to cross the finish line is a good point, especially when you win the race."

The 22-year-old Frenchman had his breakthrough in the final two months of last season.

Having not been on a World Cup podium before, he finished runner-up in Adelboden in January before winning races in Wengen, Kitzbuehel and

Soldeu.

Noel went top of the slalom standings with 180 points, five clear of Olympic champion Andre Myhrer, who placed fourth Sunday. The retirement of Marcel Hirscher has left the slalom season title wide open. The Austrian record eight-time overall champion won the discipline globe six times in the last seven years, with Kristoffersen as the only other winner, in 2016.

The three races so far this season have produced three different winners.

"Marcel was a little better than everyone. He was the big guy, the best skier in the world for so many years. It's good to have new faces on the podium," Noel said, before adding with a smile: "Sometimes it's good that Marcel is not here anymore."

Kristoffersen was leading the standings going into the race, but he dropped to fourth.

The Norwegian and Pinturault were among the many racers in the first run who got in trouble on a snow bump with a red gate right behind it.

Kristoffersen nearly skied out and carried a deficit of 1.50 seconds into his second run, where he failed to make up the deficit. □



In this Monday, Nov. 4, 2019, file photo, Penske Corporation Chairman Roger Penske responds to a question during a press conference at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

## Penske takes ownership of Indianapolis Motor Speedway

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

Roger Penske completed his purchase of Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Monday, becoming just the fourth owner of the historic facility and subsidiaries that include the IndyCar Series. The speedway had been owned by Tony Hulman and Hulman & Co. since 1945, but the family approached Penske in September for advice when Tony George and his three sisters decided to sell. Penske jumped at the opportunity.

Penske first attended the Indianapolis 500 in 1951 as a teenager and has missed only six runnings of "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" since. His 18 victories in the Indy 500 as a car owner are a record, and Simon Pagenaud swept the month of May for Team Penske last year.

"We are looking forward to carrying on the tradition of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and IndyCar racing," Penske said. "We have been diligently working with the teams at IMS, IndyCar and IMS Productions over the last two months to ensure a smooth and productive transition and we are ready to hit the ground running."

Terms of the sale have not been disclosed, but people familiar with the transaction have told AP some of the discussions involved offers of \$250 million and \$300 million for the package, with a promise of additional capital improvements to the speedway.

It took the Penske Corp. only six weeks to reach a purchase agreement with Hulman & Co. and the sale was initially announced in November. The very next day, the 82-year-old Penske walked the entire grounds and began making lists on improvements "The Captain" wants done. The sale puts him in charge of the speedway, the open-wheel series that is built around the 500 and the track's esteemed production group. Penske will step down as race strategist for Will Power to avoid any conflict of interest in owning the series as well as a three-car team.

The IndyCar Series has been in a slow rebuild but the industry hopes Penske's reach can speed up the process. Penske does not plan to make any immediate changes to leadership at the speedway or IndyCar, but he does plan to put his own board of directors in place. □

# Eller's goal completes Capitals' stunning OT win over Sharks

**By The Associated Press**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Lars Eller scored with 2:59 remaining in overtime after the Washington Capitals rallied from two goals down in the final minute of regulation, completing a stunning 5-4 victory over the San Jose Sharks on Sunday. T.J. Oshie tied it with 14.2 seconds left, and Eller also assisted Jakub Vrana's second goal of the game inside the final minute. Evander Kane had his third career hat trick for San Jose, which never trailed before Eller's winner. Logan Couture also scored for the Sharks.

Nic Dowd had a second-period goal for Washington. Braden Holtby made 25 saves to snap a three-game losing streak in net and picked up an assist on Eller's decisive goal, pushing the puck up ice to John Carlson.

**LIGHTNING 3, HURRICANES 1**

**RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)** — Steven Stamkos had a goal and an assist, Nikita Kucherov had two assists and Tampa Bay got its seventh straight victory. Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped

28 shots and Mitchell Stephens and Brayden Point also scored for the Lightning.

Andrei Svechnikov scored for Carolina, which lost its second straight and fell to 2-2 on its seven-game homestand.

**FLAMES 5, WILD 4, SO**

**ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)** — Dillon Dube scored in the seventh round of the shootout to give Calgary a win over Minnesota. David Rittich stopped six of seven Wild shooters, and Derek Ryan also scored in the shootout for the Flames, who are 4-0 in tiebreakers this season.

Milan Lucic, Travis Hamonic, Michael Stone and Mark Giordano scored for Calgary. Rittich finished with 30 saves.

Marcus Foligno scored twice, and Kevin Fiala and Jordan Greenway also had goals for Minnesota, which finished 1-2-1 on a four-game homestand.

**PANTHERS 4, PENGUINS 1**

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Mike Hoffman had a goal and an assist, rookie Chris Driedger stopped 31 shots and Florida ended an eight-game losing streak on Pittsburgh ice.



Washington Capitals defenseman John Carlson (74), goaltender Braden Holtby (70), left wing Carl Hagelin (62), left wing Alex Ovechkin (8), of Russia, and others celebrate after an NHL hockey game against the San Jose Sharks, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, in Washington.

Associated Press

Brett Connolly scored his 16th of the season for the Panthers. Frank Vatrano had his ninth and Evgenii Dadonov added an empty-netter for his 18th. Florida bounced back from a loss to Buffalo on Saturday by winning in Pittsburgh for the first time since Jan. 20, 2014. Jared McCann scored his

11th for Pittsburgh. Tristan Jarry finished with 31 saves, but the Penguins looked out of gas at times while playing for the third time in four nights.

**BLACKHAWKS 4, RED WINGS 2**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Adam Boqvist snapped a third-period tie, Dylan Sikura

scored his first NHL goal and Chicago rallied past lowly Detroit. Dylan Strome also scored for Chicago, which won for the fourth time in five games. Corey Crawford made 19 saves in his first start since he was pulled in the second period of an ugly 7-1 loss to New Jersey on Dec. 23. □

**Continued from Page 17**

The vote came a month after California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into a law a bill that would make it illegal for colleges in the state to penalize athletes for taking money for endorsements.

That law is scheduled to go into effect in 2023, but it sparked a flurry of activity in other states to adopt similar legislation. Lawmakers in at least 20 other states have said they want to pass similar bills — some with the goal of having laws in place later this year. "You can't have multiple state regulations and compete for the same championships nationally and within the same rules nationally," Swofford said.

The NCAA has turned to federal legislators for help. Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut and Republican Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah have started a congressional working

group to examine college athlete compensation and related issues. Emmert met with them last month in Washington and has said he believes federal legislation that sets national parameters for what is permissible compensation for athletes seems likely.

"I started talking about the inequities in college sports almost a year ago, and now we're on the cusp of significant reforms with bipartisan backing that put college athletes' rights front and center," Murphy said in a statement to the AP. "This kind of strong public support will continue to spark much needed change, and it's clear the groundswell of support for athletes is growing."

Emmert and other college sports leaders say they are concerned about allowing college athletes to enter the free market with no restrictions on how and by whom they can be paid

for endorsements. But, Emmert told AP, public opinion has helped drive home the need for change.

"We do, indeed, need to make this work with students playing students. Not having an employee-based model. Not blowing up what's so good about college sports right now," Emmert told AP. "The concern about the large, strong public opinion voice like this is that in a federal or state legislative process — and I believe we're seeing this in the state legislative process — it can overwhelm the need for a thoughtful approach."

Public opinion seems to be with Emmert on not turning college athletes into professionals.

Compared with broad support for college athletes receiving endorsement money, only 38% said colleges and universities with major athletic programs should



In this is an April 25, 2018, file photo, NCAA headquarters is viewed in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

give athletes a salary. The poll did find 52% of Americans believe college athletes should receive a cut of the millions of dollars the NCAA, conferences and schools make annually from media rights deals involving football and basketball.

For example, the latest NCAA's contract extension with CBS and Turner pays \$8.8 billion over eight years for the rights to broadcast

the men's basketball tournament.

Forty-six percent also said athletes participating in major athletic programs should be provided additional spending money. Athletes already receive a stipend that covers the true cost of attending college, an amount determined by federal guidelines. Those stipends vary by school and generally fall between \$2,000-\$5,000 per year. □

# CES Gadget Show: Surveillance is in - and in a big way

By **MATT O'BRIEN**

From the face scanner that will check in some attendees to the cameras-everywhere array of digital products, the CES gadget show is all-in on surveillance technology — whether it calls it that or not.

Nestled in the "smart home" and "smart city" showrooms at the sprawling Las Vegas consumer tech conference are devices that see, hear and track the people they encounter. Some of them also analyze their looks and behavior. The technology on display includes eyelid-tracking car dashboard cameras to prevent distracted driving and "rapid DNA" kits for identifying a person from a cheek swab sample.

All these talking speakers, doorbell cameras and fitness trackers come with the promise of making life easier or more fun, but they're also potentially powerful spying tools. And the skeptics who raise privacy and security concerns can be easily drowned out in the flashy spectacle of gee-whiz technology.

"Many, many horrible stories have come out of consumer electronics," said Cindy Cohn, executive director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, who is speaking on a CES panel about the future of internet-connected devices. "It's often about hyping the next thing you can buy and not considering the trade-offs."



In this Jan. 7, 2019 file photo, the new Door View Cam is on display at the Ring booth before CES International in Las Vegas.

CES runs Tuesday to Friday after two days of media previews. The annual showcase is where big companies and startups unveil and promote their latest gadgets, many of them infused with microphones, cameras and artificial intelligence. Though weighted toward the consumer market, much of what's on display may also be useful to law enforcement, not to mention prying employers or heavy-handed governments.

Marcus Yang, CEO of the camera startup Amaryllo, said he's had a difficult time persuading customers to pay more for safeguards such as faster processors

to enable end-to-end encryption, when an array of cheaper, but less secure options are available.

CES attendees "want to see technology and something fresh," Yang said. "They're only interested in looking at your cameras and what kind of features they have." Yang said he's hopeful that "something is changing this year" after a series of privacy scandals and security breaches has brought attention to the dangers of unfettered surveillance technology. And eventually, he said, regulators are likely to step in with security requirements.

Amazon's security camera division Ring, which is setting up a "Ring House" to show off its home devices, has recently had to defend its safety practices following reports of hackers breaking into Ring camera systems and harassing children. It's also faced criticism from privacy advocates and U.S. lawmakers over its growing partnerships with police.

Ring competitor Wyze Labs, an honoree in the CES 2020 innovation awards, announced a data breach just after Christmas affecting 2.4 million customers. And widely used voice assistants made by Google, Amazon and Apple all came under scrutiny in 2019 for data retention

practices that allowed employees and contractors to listen to users' audio recordings.

There's been some push back, at least on facial recognition and other surveillance technology from China. Hikvision and iFlytek, two Chinese tech companies that showed off their artificial intelligence at CES 2019, now face U.S. export restrictions because the Trump administration says the technology has been used in the repression of China's Muslims.

But China isn't the only place where the lines have blurred between consumer technology and government surveillance operations. Watchful residents of American neighborhoods are increasingly encouraged by Ring to share their doorbell video footage with police detectives. And device-makers are counting on consumers buying into ever-more elaborate forms of computer vision and other AI technology to give them peace of mind. Camera-maker Arlo this week launched its first wireless floodlight camera, with night vision, a siren, two-way audio to converse with intruders and an ambient light sensor to automatically adjust its brightness. Another company, Sunflower Labs, is using CES to show off its "home drone security"

system. If trespassers step onto your lawn, a camera-equipped drone flies out from its resting place to take a look at them and streams the live video to your phone.

Sound like something that might guard the lair of a James Bond villain? CEO Alex Pachikov says it's actually less intrusive to neighbors than your run-of-the-mill doorbell camera, because it's only looking down at your own property.

Serious talk about privacy protections and regulations isn't completely absent at CES. The schedule includes panel talks connecting policymakers with privacy executives from companies like Apple and Facebook.

Venture capitalist Rajeev Chand, who is moderating one of those panels, said tech companies are getting better at seeing themselves as custodians, not the owners, of user data, but much more needs to be done. "We are probably at the first or second inning for how privacy re-shapes the consumer tech industry," said Chand, a partner and head of research at Wing Venture Capital.

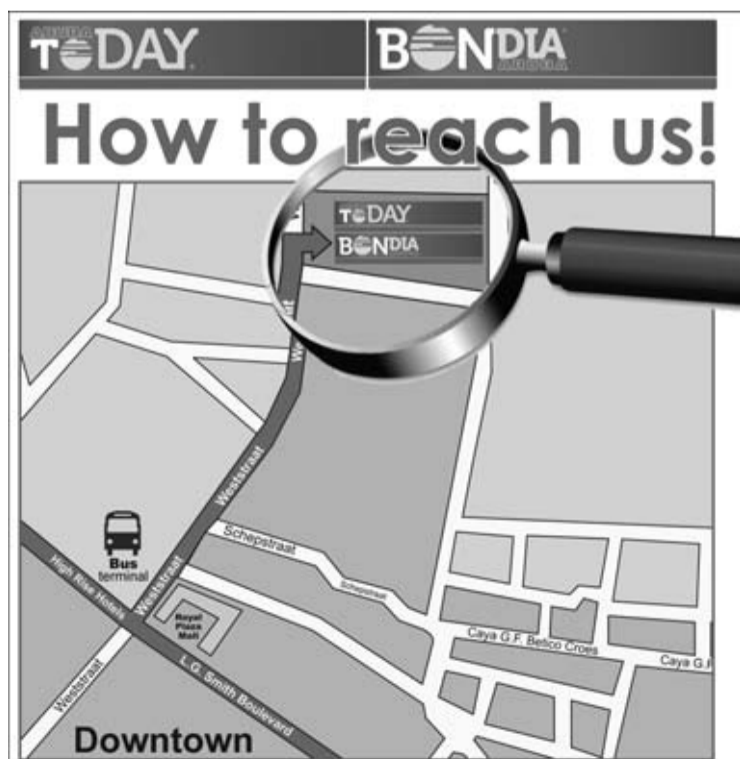
But even as some U.S. policymakers seek to restrict or ban facial recognition, the conference is getting its attendees more accustomed to everyday uses of surveillance technology in commercial and security settings.

Attendees at the gadget show can use their face to pick up their event badges for the first time.

"We're experimenting with it," said Gary Shapiro, CEO of the Consumer Technology Association, which organizes CES.

He dismissed privacy concerns, saying that attendees have a choice.

"You're opting in," he said. "If you want to do it, you'll have an opportunity to do it." Cohn, of EFF, said she plans to skip the face scanners because she doesn't know who has control over the images they collect. She said there's only so much that consumers can do to guard against misuse. □







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## Gold climbs, stocks mixed as markets swing toward safety

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Gold touched its highest price in nearly seven years Monday as investors headed for safety on worries that rising tensions between the United States and Iran could lead to war.

Stocks in Asia and Europe slumped as dollars flowed out of riskier investments, but the U.S. market shook off its early-morning losses, and U.S. indexes were mixed by early afternoon. Gains for oil producers and big internet companies made up for drops by industrial companies and banks. The S&P 500 was up modestly even though more stocks fell in the index than rose.

Caution has seeped through markets since a U.S. drone strike killed Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Iraq on Friday. Both the United States and Iran have since talked up the threat of violence, which has pushed up the price of gold as money flows into investments seen as safer. Gold neared \$1,591 per ounce during morning trading and reached its highest level since April 2013.

Oil prices have also climbed in recent days because any potential violence in the Middle East could disrupt oilfields in the region. Monday's gain for both benchmark U.S. crude and Brent oil, though, was more modest than Friday's leap. The recent reticence in the market is a turnaround from



In this Friday, Jan. 3, 2020 file photo, the Wall St. street sign is framed by American flags flying outside the New York Stock Exchange, in New York.

its stellar 2019, when the S&P 500 soared to its second-best showing in 22 years. Much of the year's gains were due to big moves by central banks around the world to shore up the global economy. The S&P 500 still remains within 1% of its record set on Thursday.

**KEEPING SCORE:** The S&P 500 was up 0.1%, as of 1:30 p.m. Eastern time. It had been down 0.6% shortly after trading opened.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 16 points, or 0.1%, at 28,618 after paring a loss that had been as big as 216 points. The Nasdaq composite was up 0.2%.

**GLITTERING:** Gold has a reputation for being one of the safest possible investments, and investors want

that given the threat of war with Iran.

Gold was up \$17, or 1.1%, at \$1,566.20 per ounce. It had been as high as \$1,590.90 earlier in the day, and it's up more than \$40 since the day before Soleimani's killing.

Gold has historically performed well around past military conflicts, such as the two Persian Gulf wars and the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, even after taking into account interest rates and the dollar's movements, according to Goldman Sachs commodities analysts.

"The escalation in the Middle East was both unexpected and unwelcome," said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at trading platform OANDA Europe.

"Investors are now fully in defensive mode, hoping for the best but fearing the worst."

**SPURTING:** Oil prices added a bit more to their big gains from Friday. Benchmark U.S. crude rose 10 cents to \$63.15 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, gained 23 cents to \$68.83 per barrel.

That helped send energy stocks in the S&P 500 up 0.5%, the second-biggest gain among the 11 sectors that make up the index. EOG Resources jumped 3.2%, and Occidental Petroleum rose 3%.

**A ROUGH START:** Overseas stock markets slumped, though the losses moderated as trading headed west with the sun.

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225

lost 1.9%, South Korea's Kospi dropped 1% and Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.8%. In Europe, Germany's DAX lost 0.7% and France's CAC 40 dropped 0.5%. The FTSE 100 in London fell 0.6%.

**SPLATTERED YOLK:** Egg producer Cal-Maine Foods fell 9.6% after reporting a surprising loss and weak revenue for its fiscal second quarter.

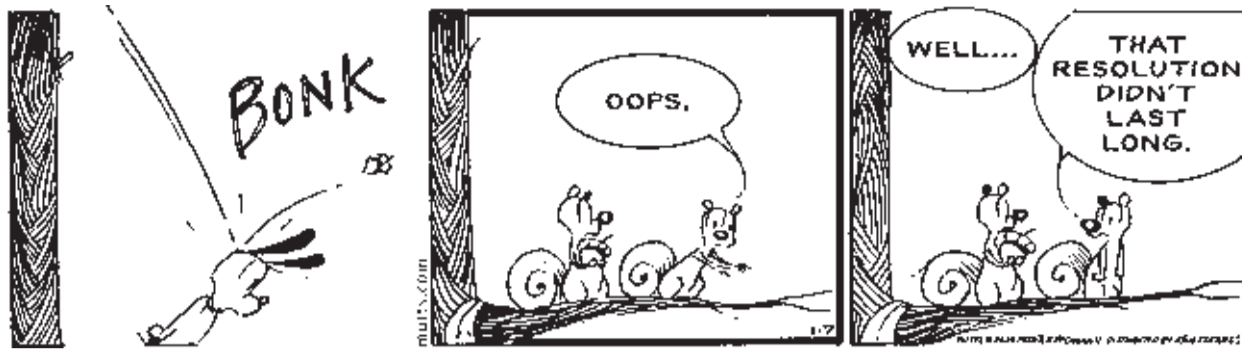
**BIG SMILE:** Dental products maker SmileDirectClub jumped 23.7% after making a deal to sell a new line of products exclusively at Walmart. The company, known for its clear teeth aligners, said it will offer electric toothbrushes, teeth whitening systems and other dental items at the nation's largest retailer.

**YIELDS:** Treasury yields inched higher and recovered some of their sharp drops from Friday. The yield on the 10-year Treasury ticked up to 1.79% from 1.78% late Friday. It had been at 1.88% late Thursday, before Soleimani's killing. The two-year yield rose to 1.53% from 1.51%, and the 30-year yield inched up to 2.26% from 2.25%.

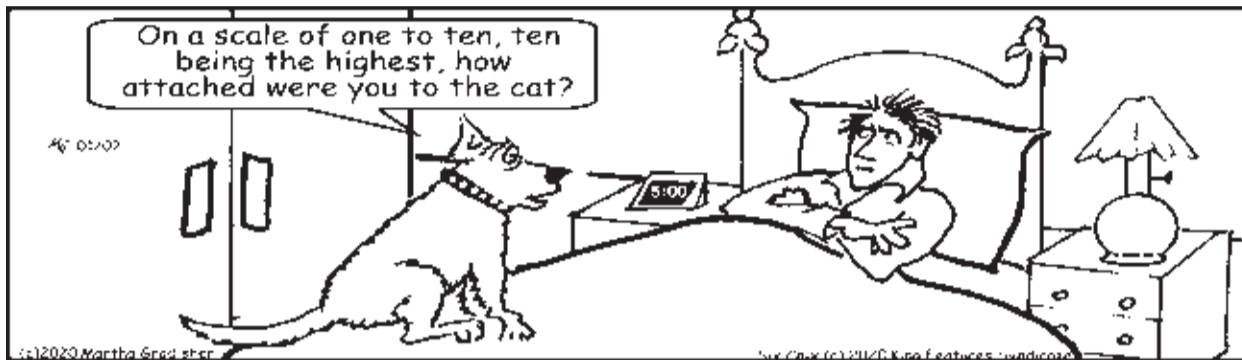
**WEEK AHEAD:** The first full week of the new year could help give investors a clearer picture of the economy at the close of 2019. On Tuesday, the Institute for Supply Management will release its December report on the U.S. service sector, which makes up the bulk of the economy. □

Associated Press

**Mutts**



**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   | 9 | 8 |   |   |   |
|   | 7 |   | 2 | 6 |   |   |   | 4 |
| 1 |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |   | 5 |
|   |   | 8 |   | 9 |   | 2 |   |   |
| 7 | 8 |   |   |   | 6 | 3 |   |   |
| 9 |   | 3 |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |
| 5 |   |   | 8 |   |   |   | 9 |   |
| 2 |   | 1 | 4 |   |   | 7 |   |   |
|   | 4 | 3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |

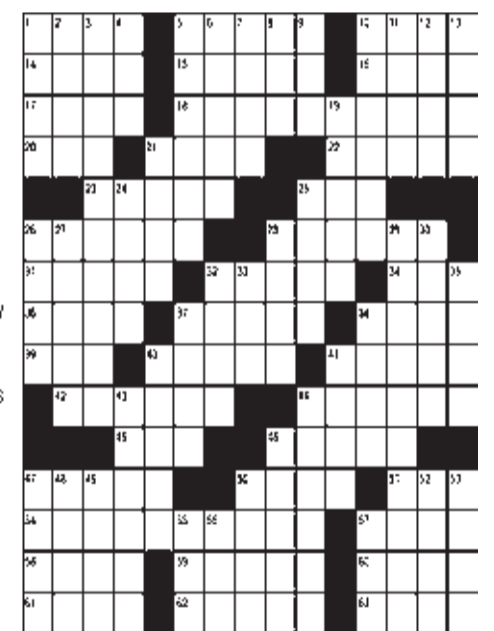
Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| 1 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| 2 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 1 |
| 6 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 4 |
| 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| 8 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 |

- ACROSS**
- Dog food brand
  - Satchel's feature
  - Complete failure
  - Live tremors
  - Chang Ma residents
  - Import
  - Small horse
  - Scots
  - Boogie Ape
  - Snake's greeting
  - Fearing of anxiety
  - Formal
  - Pen name
  - Fates
  - Small restaurants
  - Love a capricious
  - Exchange
  - Suffix for command or auction
  - Log splitters
  - Small curcundings
  - Country in Africa
  - Gays
  - uppers
  - Olympic runner Edwin
  - Island, NYC
  - Remove from the phone
  - Scientific promise
  - Kermis color
  - Fa'lower
  - Journey
  - Islo, probably well
  - Drugstore
  - up to the task
  - Amra'
  - enclosures
  - Nai King and Old King
  - Vin'
  - away; subtract
  - Rather eccentric
  - Rosary piece



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

**Monday's Puzzle Solved**

|           |           |        |
|-----------|-----------|--------|
| SLIM      | STIR      | GLOW   |
| TAMED     | TUNE      | RAVE   |
| AMPLE     | ABANDONED |        |
| TEE       | BOY       | EATERS |
| DORIS     | WIT       |        |
| SPINAL    | PILOTS    |        |
| DAMES     | SHINY     | UPS    |
| AGES      | BEING     | TRIO   |
| KEN       | PEEPS     | LIBEL  |
| STEIN'S   | CARUSO    |        |
| GEE       | TOWEL     |        |
| ACCORD    | ROY       | ELF    |
| LOUISIANA | ERNIE     |        |
| EARS      | CROC      | RACES  |
| CLEM      | TENT      | MEDS   |

**DOWN**

- Deadly reptiles
- likes, lewis
- Penalty
- Suffix for direct or deposit
- Comic newspaper section
- One of days; eventually
- Bad; undeserved reputations
- Broadcast
- Greek letter
- Neighbor of Italy
- Bleaching organ
- Chances
- Annoying person
- Largest state in New England
- Difficult
- Garden tool's
- farewell; says goodbye
- West of 'Bairn'
- Criales
- Root beer brand
- Like a fair price
- Monica of terms
- Skinny
- House number
- ascend
- Ascend
- Murdered
- Suffix
- Violent weather
- Genre; submissive
- Unwilling
- Unlike casual attire
- Say the o to
- Scheduled Dr. visit
- Old Mets stadium
- Suffix rapid decline
- Lean to one side
- 'Guilty' or 'Not guilty'
- oil annoyed
- Aunt; Doye's monogram
- Sound of concert; 57 Intas for Bel

# Classifieds



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 Eagle 3 with 23 weeks remain  
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 building C with 24 weeks remain  
 Studio wk 6 \$7,5 K  
 building F 22 weeks remain

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# Century-old TB vaccine may work better if given in a new way

By **LAURAN NEERGAARD**  
AP Medical Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Scientists think they've figured out how to make a century-old tuberculosis vaccine far more protective: Simply give the shot a different way.

In a study with monkeys, injecting the vaccine straight into the bloodstream dramatically improved its effectiveness over today's skin-deep shot, researchers reported Wednesday.

"This offers hope," although more safety studies are required before testing the approach in people, said Dr. Robert Seder of the National Institutes of Health, a senior author of the study. Tuberculosis kills about 1.7 million people a year, mostly in poor countries. The only vaccine, called the BCG vaccine, is used mainly in high-risk areas to protect babies from one form of the disease. But it's far less effective at protecting teens and adults from the main threat, TB in the lungs.

Most vaccines are shots jabbed in the muscle or skin. Seder came up with the idea of IV immunization a few years ago, with experiments showing a malaria vaccine candidate worked better when injected into a vein. He wondered if the TB vaccine would react the same way. Researchers at NIH teamed with the University of Pittsburgh to study certain monkeys, rhesus macaques, that react to TB infection much like people do. They tested a variety of ways to give the TB vaccine, including a mist that the monkeys

inhaled through a mask. Six months after the vaccinations, the researchers delivered TB bacteria straight into the animals' lungs and watched for infection. Monkeys given today's standard skin shot, even with a higher dose, were only slightly more protected than unvaccinated animals, and the mist wasn't too effective, either. But in 9 of 10 monkeys, a higher-than-usual vaccine dose injected into a vein worked much better, the researchers reported in the journal *Nature*. The team found no trace of infection in six of the animals and counted very low levels of TB bacteria in the lungs of three.

Why? The hypothesis is that key immune cells called T cells have to swarm the lungs to kill off TB bacteria and can do so more quickly when the vaccine is carried rapidly around the body via the bloodstream. Sure enough, tests showed more active T cells lingering in the lungs of monkeys vaccinated the new way.

The findings are striking, showing that how a vaccine is given "clearly affects immunity," University of Massachusetts TB specialists Samuel Behar and Chris Sasseti, who weren't involved in the study, wrote in an accompanying editorial. Still, giving a vaccine intravenously isn't nearly as easy as other kinds of shots, they cautioned.

Seder said additional safety research is underway in animals, with hopes of beginning a first-step study in people in about 18 months. □



In this Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, photo, Jack McTiernan, a student with New Harmony High School, works on a restoration project with Tricia LeBlanc, left, wetland park program director, at the Sankofa Wetland Park and Nature Trail in the Lower 9th Ward neighborhood in New Orleans.

Associated Press

# New high school puts focus on environment, climate change

By **STACEY PLAISANCE**  
Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — A new high school in New Orleans is preparing students for careers in coastal protection and restoration, anticipating a future with ongoing climate change and sea level rise.

New Harmony High School opened in the fall of 2018 and currently serves about 100 south Louisiana students, including 14-year-old Mei Miller. She commutes 30 miles (50 kilometers) one-way from her home in Slidell, Louisiana, to attend New Harmony. Though just a freshman, Miller said, she already knows she would like to be an engineer working on renewable energy sources and coastal restoration.

"I think that things like wind turbines or solar panels are really, really important for us to be focusing on," Miller said. "The main problem is that people don't want to spend the money on that, which really needs to be changed. People need to see that the issue is bigger than the cost."

Miller said she would also like to see more big businesses with money take the lead on green energy.

Besides their traditional classes in math, literature and history, New Harmony students take science classes that tackle environmental issues. The school currently has grades nine and ten with plans to expand to 11th and 12th grades.

"I really like getting to learn alongside the other students about the problems we have that affect everyone else in the world, not even just in the U.S.," Miller said.

The school's mission is intricately tied to the state's future. A multitude of issues from the leveeing of the Mississippi River to oil and gas development have made Louisiana ground zero for coastal land loss. The state estimates that it has lost just over 2,000 square miles of land (5,200 square kilometers) — a tract about the size of Delaware — since 1932.

So many New Harmony assignments and projects deal with coastal restoration and protection.

Besides the classroom work, students spend one day a week off-campus interning with environmentally conscious businesses and organizations in the community. Some plant trees or intern

at sustainable restaurants where they learn firsthand about composting, recycling, ways to minimize energy use and avoid use of plastics.

New Harmony is a state charter school situated in a former private church school in New Orleans. It was founded by a group of educators and environmental scientists who initially wanted to put the school on a barge that would take students up and down the Mississippi River from New Orleans to the Gulf of Mexico. That plan proved too costly, said Anthony Burrell, the school's community coordinator.

But the mission is the same, he said. Students spend time outside the classroom each week participating in field trips, internships and service projects related to sustainability, sea-level rise and other effects of climate change in the community.

A recent project at the Sankofa Wetland Park and Nature Trail in the city's Lower 9th Ward neighborhood has been putting the students' skills to work on a project that aims to address the city's water challenges. □

# A mix of risk-takers and classic Hollywood at Golden Globes

By LEANNE ITALIE

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Charlize Theron, Kerry Washington and Gugu Mbatha-Raw led the fashion risk-takers at the Golden Globes, while Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon and Cynthia Erivo topped the lists of many for more classic looks on one of the biggest red carpets of the awards season.

The men generally played it safe Sunday night in Beverly Hills, save Jason Momoa in a velvet Tom Ford coat paired with Valentino pants and a black tank top, his long hair flying.

But one look was in a category of its own. When it came to icon Jennifer Lopez, it was a love-hate battle over her weighty white Valentino Couture gown with its huge bow of gold and green at the bodice.

There were a few trends, too, including lingerie-as-outerwear that was all over the spring 2020 runways, said Marielle Bobo, fashion director for Essence. She and others also noted the revamped tuxedo-inspired runway trend.

"Kerry Washington showed skin in a black shirtless Altuzarra look from the brand's pre-fall collection, while Awkwafina paired a dramatic ruffled blouse with her classic black tux. Cynthia Erivo's custom Thom Browne tuxedo gown was an unexpected take on the trend as well. The stand-out by far, however, was Billy Porter's stunning white Alex Vinash tuxedo, which wowed with its dramatic feather train," Bobo added. There was lots of pink in hues soft to neon. Kirsten Dunst brought the romance in blush lace by Rodarte, having chosen the lace herself. Dakota Fanning was in tulle Christian Dior in dreamy lavender and Tiffany Haddish rocked bright pink. Statement sleeves were also big, from puffy to bejeweled.

In beauty, Refinery29.com's senior beauty editor Lexy Lebsack noted a return to classic tried-and-trues that included the bob and red lips.

"Stars like Kerry Washington, Priyanka Chopra and Awkwafina made red lips



Charlize Theron arrives at the 77th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

modern by picking bright colors that perfectly complemented their complexions," she said. "Reese Witherspoon, Zoey Deutch, Tiffany Haddish, newcomer Ana de Armas and many more opted to wear bobs in a variety of styles, whether slicked back, gathered into low ponies or flipped out. Each was unique and further proof that the bob will rule in 2020."

Back to Lopez for just a second.

"She looked incredible," said Adam Glassman, creative director for O, The Oprah Magazine and special correspondent for Extra. "When Jennifer Lopez walked up to us, it was breathtaking. Her hair, her makeup, the jewelry, the gown. Everything."

The diamond and emerald necklace around her neck was 76.36 carats of Harry Winston goodness set in 18-karat yellow gold and platinum. Along with her emerald earrings, the pieces are worth more than \$2.2 million, the company said.

Sarah Kinonen, Allure's associate digital beauty director, was among the fans of her hair, which was

pulled back into a high bun of braids.

"When was the last time you saw Jennifer Lopez wear braids? What about a bun with braids? Yeah, I'm drawing blanks, too. That's why this structural hair style by Chris Appleton is so iconic. I can't wait to see what J.Lo and her team have in store for the rest of the award show season."

Theron wowed in a neon green and black Dior Haute couture silk gown.

"I love that the gown was daring with its sheer bustier cutout," said Bobo.

Mbatha-Raw's Gucci sequin dress in slick chaireuse was equal parts elegant and edgy, she said.

"Sequins on the red carpet can be so cliché, but this modern silhouette with its plunging neckline and tuxedo-inspired waist detail was modern yet effortlessly chic," Bobo added. Blanchett was resplendent in Mary Katrantzou yellow with yards of pleats from shoulder to hem and a unique jeweled bra bodice.

As for Porter, the deputy editor of Esquire, Ben Boskovich, said his conversa-

tion over gender and fashion will carry on in 2020. His Golden Globes look was a cream tuxedo with a long feather train that unzipped for sitting.

"Porter continues to take bold, exciting steps with his red carpet looks and he hasn't disappointed yet," Boskovich said.

Kinonen had her eyes on Porter's skin.

"While all eyes were on Billy Porter's custom white feather ensemble, which took a cool three months to create, the team and I were more interested in the 'Pose' star's luminous skin. Like, if I had makeup artist Anna Bernabe's number on speed dial, I'd text her right now and get the name of the highlighter she used on Porter's cheekbones then order one for everyone at Allure."

Style writer Rachel Tashjian of GQ had a few best-dressed men, including Andrew Scott, the "hot priest" of "Fleabag." She said he mixed creams and whites in his formalwear "like a true messenger of God!"

And her top trend for the guys?

"Quirky lapels. Kyle Chan-

dlar's '90s classic tux bad boys. Bong Joon Ho's subtle double lapels. Ramy Youssef's eggplant-and-black pieced lapels. Eddie Murphy's generous shawl collar," Tashjian said. "And Quentin Tarantino's short satin notch lapels were almost Johnny Cash-worthy." Kidman's Atelier Versace was among the top dresses in reds. So was Helen Mirren's deep red Dior with a royal neckline and nail color to match. Scarlett Johansson wore a custom strapless plunging V-neck gown in crimson with a hand-draped bow and train by Vera Wang Collection.

Zoe Kravitz brought a pop of playful in dots courtesy of Saint Laurent by Anthony Vaccarello, and Lucy Boynton brought it in silver from Louis Vuitton.

Gabrielle Korn, director of fashion and culture for Refinery29.com, was a huge fan of women inspired by menswear.

"Phoebe Waller-Bridge's tweedy Ralph & Russo suit made me gasp," she said. "I also loved that Awkwafina rolled up in a tuxedo inspired skirt suit. Could she be any cooler?"

You also had her at structured sleeves.

"It was such a fun change from the usual bare shoulders on the red carpet. There was Jodie Comer's emerald green stunner, Zoe Deutch's yellow priestess pointy shoulders, Bel Powley's Little Women-esque prairie dress and more," Korn said. "I'm all for women taking up more space, and there's something very symbolic about powerful shoulder silhouettes. These stars weren't trying to make themselves small in order to fit some sort of idea of what's expected of women on the red carpet."

Waller-Bridge said backstage that her look, the "most extraordinary thing I ever wore," will be auctioned with proceeds going for fire relief in Australia, where the couple behind the brand are from.

"It's a beautiful idea from the team," she said. □

# Forget CGI. Dench is the special effect in 'Cats'

By JOCELYN NOVECK

Associated Press

There's apparently enough groundbreaking technology used in "Cats" for NASA to send a rocket to unexplored parts of the universe — perhaps to a far-off planet where cats sing, dance on two legs, and recite T.S. Eliot poetry in half-Cockney accents.

But let's forget the much-discussed "digital fur tech-

nology" used to turn stars like Jennifer Hudson, Taylor Swift and Idris Elba into state-of-the-art, fabulous felines. Spoiler (or spoiled milk) alert: It's not the technology that makes a whisker of difference here (sorry for the cat puns, but if you see this film, you'd better get used to them).

No, it's an old-school quality that's the real "special effect" worth talking about



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Taylor Swift as Bombalurina in a scene from "Cats." Associated Press

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JANUARY 2-8

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| <p><b>NEW THIS WEEK!</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">THE GRUDGE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TARA WESTWOOD   JUNKO BAILEY</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PH MON-THU &amp; SUN 3:50   6:05   8:20<br/>FRI-SAT 3:50   6:05   8:20   10:35</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PBP MON-THU &amp; SUN 7:50<br/>FRI-SAT 7:50   10:00</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">JOJO RABBIT</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">ROMAN GRIFFIN DAVIS   TAIKA WAITITI</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PBP MON-SUN 2:00   4:25   6:50   9:15</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">RICHARD JEWELL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PAUL WALTER HAUSER   SAM ROCKWELL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PH MON-SUN 3:20   6:10   9:05</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">SPIES IN DISGUISE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">WILL SMITH   TOM HOLLAND</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PH MON-THU &amp; SUN 3:40   6:05   8:30<br/>FRI-SAT 3:40   6:05   8:30   10:00</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PBP MON-SUN 2:00   4:20   6:40   9:00</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">MON-SUN 7:45   5:05</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">LA PACHANGA</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">ANA MARÍA ARANGO   FRANCISCO BOLÍVAR</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">SPANISH</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PBP MON-THU &amp; SUN 7:25   9:30<br/>FRI-SAT 7:25   9:30   11:25</p> </div> | <p><b>ALSO SHOWING!</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">DWAYNE JOHNSON   JACK BLACK</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PH MON-SUN 3:05   5:50   8:40</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PBP MON-THU &amp; SUN 3:00   5:40   8:20<br/>FRI-SAT 3:00   5:40   8:20   11:00</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PBP MON-SUN 1:20   4:00   6:40   9:20</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">DAISY RIDLEY   ADAM DRIVER</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PH MON-SUN 2:40   5:45   8:50</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">CXC MON-SUN 2:30   5:30   8:30</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Disney FROZEN II</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">KRISTEN BELL   IDINA MENZEL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PBP MON-SUN 1:05   3:20   5:25</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">LITTLE WOMEN</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">SAOIRSE RONAN   EMMA WATSON</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PH MON-SUN 3:10   6:05   9:00</p> </div> |
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THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

in "Cats," the new film version of the Andrew Lloyd Webber juggernaut that launched the mega-musical in the '80s: veteran stage talent. Case one: Judi Dench, who can take any silliness and somehow make it genuine and moving, even in a computer-generated cat suit. Case two: her old friend Ian McKellen, who can embody an aging cat as well as he can Gandalf or Macbeth (which he once played opposite Dench). Case three: James Corden, who, let's not forget, is a Tony-winning stage actor especially good at slapstick, which he uses here to amusing effect.

Bottom line: However you feel about "Cats" the show — and let's face it, some love it and some hate it, EXACTLY as it will be with this film — give director Tom Hooper credit for assembling a cast that knows its way around a stage. This estimable group includes, along with the theater veterans, music stars like Hudson and Swift, who each make the most of one blockbuster number suited to their talents. It includes movie stars like Elba — who talks and growls more than sings — and Rebel Wilson, a "Gumbie cat" who really should be called a "Raunchy cat."

And dance stars. Choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler ("Hamilton") brings

in top talents like Robbie Fairchild, the former New York City Ballet principal dancer who can sing and act, too, besides being one of the most graceful cats in the alley.

Alongside him dances Francesca Hayward, a principal dancer with the Royal Ballet, in the ingenue role of Victoria, and other stars of ballet, tap dance and hip hop.

Before explaining the plot — and really, there's never been much to explain — a brief primer: "Cats" is not so much a show as a cultural phenomenon. It ran in London's West End for 21 years, and on Broadway for 18. Those are just the original productions; it has been performed in more than 50 countries and in 19 languages.

All this for a show with no real narrative arc, based on a series of poems adapted by Webber from Eliot's 1939 "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats." Here, as opposed to the stage show, the action is set in 1930s London, where Eliot would have lived.

It is Victoria (Hayward) who begins our story. The innocent young newcomer is unceremoniously dumped by her owner in an alleyway. Suddenly she is surrounded by cats — the Jellicle cats, who have come together for the annual Jellicle Ball. (Their opening song, "Jellicle Songs for Jel-

licle Cats," is addictively catchy.)

The ball marks the night when one lucky cat is chosen to rise skyward to the "Heaviside Layer," and be reborn. The choice lies with Old Deuteronomy, the grand old patriarch, who traditionally was a man — but this is the #MeToo era, and besides, they got Dame Judi Dench — so, He is a She. Dench, whose slated appearance in the original London show was thwarted by injury, takes her appointed place here, and lends the proceedings needed heft and authenticity.

If Dench embodies good, Elba's character, the green-eyed Macavity, embodies evil. He's desperate to win the ball's prize, even if he has to abduct every other cat he's competing with.

But before the ball, each cat sings what amounts to a personal audition song — sort of "A Chorus Line" for ambitious felines. They include Jennyanydots, played by Wilson in her usual raunchy, anything-goes style. ("Stop milking it!" she meows.) Jennyanydots lives in her owner's kitchen and sleeps by day, but dances with cockroaches by night.

Bustopher Jones (Corden) is the well-groomed glutton, in spats, who eats his way through his entertaining number. □

## Countdown to Mardi Gras: This year, 7 weeks of festivities

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — The Christmas season is officially drawing to a close, but it's just the start of the season leading up to New Orleans' biggest street party: Mardi Gras.

Some walking parades and streetcar-riding groups touch off Carnival revelry, which climaxes on Fat Tuesday — Feb. 25 of this year. On Monday the Krewe of Joan of Arc walks through the French Quarter, where the streets are too narrow for floats to pass. And two groups — the Phunny Phorty Phellows and the Funky Uptown Krewe — ride streetcars along St. Charles Avenue. The Société des Champs Elysée, which usually celebrates on a different streetcar line, must walk to its party because the partial collapse of the Hard Rock Hotel has closed that line.

The city hasn't said whether any major parade routes must change this year because of the hotel collapse on the edge of the city's French Quarter. The krewes of Endymion, which will roll Feb. 22, and Zulu, on Mardi Gras, might have to slightly alter their routes, said Arthur Hardy, who is putting out his 44th annual guide to the season's parades. If it happens, he said, it won't be a big deal: "People will



In this Jan. 6, 2015, file photo, members of the Phunny Phorty Phellows, participate in their night of revelry aboard a streetcar in New Orleans.

Associated Press

say, 'Hey, go with the flow.'" Carnival season always begins Jan. 6, celebrated by many as Epiphany, the day the three wise men arrived to see the baby Jesus. Mardi Gras moves with Ash Wednesday and Easter. Carnival comes from the Latin words meaning "farewell to the flesh," and Fat Tuesday was originally the day when all remaining meat and fat had to be eaten before Ash Wednesday ushered in Lenten fasts. Between now and Ash

Wednesday, dozens of parades will take place in New Orleans and about 150 more statewide, plus the Cajun-country courirs de Mardi Gras — chases after chickens and other ingredients for a communal gumbo.

Some parade krewes have enormous floats and celebrity riders. Singer-songwriter Robin Thicke will reign in New Orleans on Feb. 23 as Bacchus, god of wine and mirth, 32 years after his father, TV personality Alan

Thicke, did so for the city's first "superkrewe." This year's parade will have 33 "superfloats" and more than 1,600 riders.

"I rode on the King's Float with my father when I was a boy and it was one of the best experiences I ever had with him," Robin Thicke said in a statement posted on the Krewe of Bacchus Facebook page.

On Feb. 24, Bryan Cranston, best known for playing Walter White on AMC's "Breaking Bad," will be

among celebrities riding with the Krewe of Orpheus. Also leading the 30 floats and 1,200 krewe members will be the costars of "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," Charlie Day and Elizabeth Ellis, and country musician and "Dancing with the Stars" finalist Lauren Alaina.

Nearly all parade participants toss plastic beads and other trinkets to the crowd, and a record 173 tons (157 metric tons) of them have been recycled for this season by the non-profit Arc of Greater New Orleans, which helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The discovery in January 2018 that 46 tons (42 metric tons) of beads had clogged storm drains along five blocks of a 4.5-mile (7-kilometer) parade route helped steer more than triple that weight in beads, hats, stuffed toys, toy spears and other gew-gaws into the group's recycling bins in 2019, said spokeswoman Ann Christian.

"It's opened people's eyes," she said.

ArcGNO has sold recycled beads for decades, but always to individuals who visited its Mardi Gras Recycle Center, where scores of Arc participants work full- or part-time, Christian said. □

## Avant-garde posters unveiled as Tokyo Olympics near

By **STEPHEN WADE**

**TOKYO (AP)** — The official posters are out for this year's Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

The 20 posters have been created by 19 artists in fields ranging from painting, graphic design and photography. Calligraphy and Japanese manga are also represented. Manga is the Japanese art of comics and cartooning, which is very famous in the host country.

The posters were first put on display on Monday at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo. They will remain on display at the museum in east Tokyo through Feb. 16.

The posters are a tradition

at every Olympics and Paralympics, and many previous posters have become collector's items. The requirement to create posters is set out in the so-called "host city contract" in which the International Olympic Committee establishes the rules for the preparation and management of the games.

The Summer Olympics open at Tokyo's new National Stadium on July 24 and are followed by the Paralympics on Aug. 25.

Of the 20 posters, 12 are based on Olympic themes and eight were inspired by the Paralympics. Several feature wheelchairs, including a graphic vision of the violence in the sport of

wheelchair rugby.

Many of the images are far from traditional, showcasing bright colors and curious forms. In many of the avant-garde images it is difficult to discern the exact tie to the Olympics or Paralympics. Very few even feature a prominent display of the Tokyo Olympic or Paralympic logos.

That also goes for the five Olympic rings, which are seldom featured.

Some of the titles are also eye-catching: "Space Kicker" by painter Shinro Ohtake; "The Sky Above the Great Wave off the coast of Kanagawa" by manga artist Hirohiko Araki; "Open" by calligrapher Koji Kakinuma; "Higher than the



A man stands in front of a poster created by artist Tomoko Konoike, one of 20 posters officially selected for the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo Monday, Jan. 6, 2020.

Associated Press

Rainbow" by photographer Mika Ninagawa; "Offense No. 7" by artist Tomoyuki

Shinki; and "flow line" by graphic designer Daijiro Ohaha. □

# A coral reef cemetery is home to life in the afterlife

**MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)** — A year after Will and Daniel Payne lost their mom, and nearly two decades since their father's death, it was time to follow their wishes for the afterlife.

As they board a boat with three generations of family, the brothers slip into flippers and de-fog their masks. Will, who became a certified scuba diver just days earlier, checks his oxygen tank and jumps into the azure waters to secure a concrete marker mixed with their ashes at a memorial reef about three miles out to sea.

This unusual resting place is exactly what the Paynes say their parents wanted. Buel Payne, a former Coast Guard member, and Linda Payne, who grew up on the water and loved boating, will spend their afterlife in a memorial modeled after the lost city of Atlantis, among impressive lion statues and ornate gates and pillars that encrusted with sea life.

It took nearly four years for multiple government agencies to sign off on this underwater mausoleum, which is designed to encourage a healthy ecosystem. Roughly a decade later, the Neptune Memorial Reef is home to the cremated remains of 1,500 people, and any snorkeler or scuba diver can visit. The Paynes are the first to be memorialized in the reef's expansion, which



In this July 19, 2019 photo, Will Payne and three generations of his family throw flowers into sea after memorial plaque for Payne's parents, Buel and Linda Payne, was installed at Neptune Memorial Reef near Miami Beach, Fla.

opened this summer and will make room for an additional 4,000 memorials over 16 acres, about 40 feet deep. Placements start around \$1,500 and can go up to \$8,000, with the priciest placements for specialized shapes like sea turtles and stingrays or for prominent spots throughout the city like the lions.

With reefs struggling worldwide against coral bleaching and other threats, the memorial's builders are providing coral a head start. The concrete structures offer a high pH level, enabling sea creatures to flourish.

"We're seeing animals here that we haven't seen before. Ones that have been missing for a long time," says Jim Hutslar, the reef's operations director and one of the founders. "We actually found a long spine sea urchin that was considered extinct in the Caribbean Sea."

Sara Thanner, an environmental supervisor for the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, says an April survey showed the reef supports more than 65 different fish, shrimp and lobster and 75 other species including sponges, soft corals, and hard corals.

For people making end-of-life plans, the reef means being part of something living. Hutslar is hoping that decades from now, the memorial will have grown into a massive coral reef where individual markers will no longer be distinguishable, and "family members will just know their loved ones are part of it."

"We're creating life after life," he said.

While Hutslar, Will and another diver descended to the ocean floor, Daniel and his wife and three children snorkeled on the surface, gazing down through the strong clear currents. They spotted a parrot fish, barracuda and a monster snook.

Abundant schools of small, colorful fish darted in and out of the sculptures.

They had picked out a small bronze headstone reading "Together at Last" to mark the ashes, adding their thumbprints on a decorative concrete sea shell. The divers picked a spot amid the underwater city's striking columns and statues.

"It's just amazing. It's so peaceful," Will, 48, of Sachse, Texas, said after surfacing. "If there is a heaven, that would be it for them."

Back on the boat, the family snacked on cookies and

oranges and enjoyed a day at sea, laughing, hugging and crying at times. The men's aunt and uncle also brought red roses that each member of the family tossed overboard.

Daniel, 41, of Princeton, Texas, said he plans to get scuba-certified so he can see it up close, and return every year.

"I really didn't get it when (my mom) was telling me about it and the more and more I think about it, it's really a nice, peaceful spot for your last resting place," he said.

Hutslar and his partners were solely focused on supporting marine life at first, figuring the cemetery would help pay for the reef. But he's helped hundreds of families say goodbye to their loved ones over the years, giving him a calling he's come to cherish.

"This has actually become my favorite part — being with the families," said Hutslar.

Memorials for children especially stick in his mind. There's something healing about the ocean. He says you can see it when families return to the surface.

"You can watch something wash away," he said.

It happened again, Hutslar said, as Will Payne paid his final respects.

"I hope you're happy where you're at. I love you," Payne whispered through his mouthpiece. "Keep an eye on us." □

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In this July 19, 2019 photo, Jim Hutslar, operations director for Neptune Memorial Reef, and Ray Lowenstein prepare to install a memorial plaque for Buel and Linda Payne, affixed to a cement baluster mixed with their ashes, at the Neptune Memorial Reef near Miami Beach, Fla.

Associated Press



In this July 19, 2019 photo, a memorial plaque for Buel and Linda Payne, affixed to a cement baluster mixed with their ashes, is displayed near Miami Beach, Fla.

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